





# Clinton is confident peace could be achieved in Cyprus

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton said after meeting the new president of Cyprus Friday "we have the best chance we've had in quite a long time" for peaceful resolution of the dispute between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

President Glafos Clerides said earlier he saw a "glimpse of hope" for ending the 19-year impasse between the two communities of the island and intended to ask Mr. Clinton for a U.S. guarantee of a settlement.

After their meeting, Mr. Clinton said, "We want to do what we can to promote a good agreement there and we're going to be actively involved in working toward a peaceful settlement. The talks are just about to start again and I don't think I should say or do anything which could disrupt them."

The two presidents met in advance of Mr. Clerides' negotiations next week at the United Nations.

Nations with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

Mr. Clinton also said, "I really appreciate the attitude he (Clerides) has taken, and I think that we have the best chance we've had in quite a long time to have a peaceful, successful completion of these talks."

The Greek Cypriot leader said he only came to attend the talks because he had received assurances that the U.N. Security Council will renew the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping force on Cyprus for another six months on June 15.

If the U.N. troops stationed along a "green line" separating zones controlled by the feuding Turkish and Greek Cypriots pulled out, it would have created "an explosive situation" Mr. Clerides said.

Countries providing troops have threatened to withdraw them, citing lack of progress in the 19-year Cyprus negotiations.



Egyptian antiquity experts Thursday inspect the paintings inside a pharaonic tomb discovered near the Giza Pyramids (AFP photo)

## Egyptians find 3,200-year-old tomb

ABU SIR, Egypt (R) — Archaeologists have found a 3,200-year-old underground tomb near the Pyramids of Giza and say it might be part of an entire previously-unknown necropolis.

"We are in front of a very big discovery," the director of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation (EAO), Mohammed Ibrahim Bakr, told reporters Saturday outside the tomb, cut into a sand-covered slope of rock rising above the village of Abu Sir.

The three pyramids of Giza, 12 kilometres north-west of Abu Sir, and the pyramids and tombs of Sak-kara, just to the south, all belong to the much earlier old kingdom, which began about 5,000 years ago. The area is just beyond the southern outskirts of Cairo.

"It might be the beginning of the discovery of a whole necropolis in Abu Sir," said one of the EAO archaeologists working on the site. "This is the first time to have new kingdom tombs here."

Mr. Bakr said the tomb was discovered three weeks ago. Khaled Mohammad Abu Ha, an EAO inspector at Sak-kara, said villagers had found a hole leading to the upper-level room.

The brick, mud and thatch houses of Abu Sir are built right up to the slope which concealed the tomb.

"The police told the inspector that there are some people stealing from the place here. We did not know whether there was a tomb here or not, so we decided to excavate the area and we were fortunate to find the tomb," he said.



U.S. President Bill Clinton (right) Friday meets with Cyprus President Glafos Clerides at the White House (AFP photo)

## 9 Iraqis, 4 Saudis killed in clashes at Rafha camp

RIYADH (AP) — The government disclosed Saturday that 13 people were killed in a violent clash between Saudi security men and Iraqi refugees in a camp near the Saudi-Iraqi border more than two months ago.

Another 12 Iraqis were injured in the March 9 riots, sparked by the Iraqis' demand that the kingdom open its borders to more refugees fleeing Iraq, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

It was the first official word of any disturbances at the Rafha camp, set up in 1990 for an estimated 45,000 Iraqi prisoners of war (PoWs) or Shi'ite Muslims who fled their country.

Quoting an informed source, a spokesman for a government spokesman, the Saudi agency said the authorities withheld news of the riot until investigation was completed.

It said refugees equipped with "domestically manufactured swords and hatchets" gathered at the gates of Rafha camp and began pelting Saudi guards, demanding that infiltrators from Iraq be allowed into the camp.

Despite a two-year-old Saudi decision not to allow any more Iraqis into the camp, authorities agreed to give women and children coming from Iraq sanctuary at Rafha, it said.

"But they persisted in their violence against the guards and began trying to dislocate the perimeter wires near the gate," the agency said.

Fire engines poured water on the demonstrators seeking to disperse them, but when that failed guards fired in the air.

Demonstrators inside the camp then stormed a complex of buildings housing education, medical and administration offices.

A refugee was shot in the shoulder as he tried to seize the weapon of a Saudi guard, the agency said. The Iraqis prevented

an ambulance from reaching the wounded man. They also blocked Saudi volunteer teachers who tried to help him, and he bled to death.

The demonstrators carried the body on their shoulders, and thousands of refugees then joined the rampage, smashing windows and setting cars and buildings on fire.

In one of the buildings set alight four Saudis burned to death, the agency said.

"At this point, the (guards') command had to use force and fire in the air, while fire brigade cars fought the blaze. Three persons (demonstrators) died and 17 were injured," the agency said.

Five of the injured demonstrators later died of their wounds, it said.

Participants in the demonstration later confessed that the riot was aimed to "force the Saudi authorities to allow the infiltrators that came across the international borders to join the camp," the agency said.

"Quoted the official source as saying that the incident would not affect the services extended to the refugees. But the sources also stressed that the government would not allow any acts that threaten "order and security" at the camp.

Some 7,000 of the camps' residents have been granted asylum in third countries and would be leaving this year, according to recent statistics released by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Some 1,456 refugees whose repatriation after the end of the 1991 Gulf war that ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

Most of the refugees are Shi'ite dissidents who tried to topple the Iraqi government after the Gulf war.

## Iraq replaces vanishing change with banknotes

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's central bank is issuing new small-denomination notes to replace coins, which have been disappearing from circulation because they can be melted down to extract silver.

Baghdad newspapers have accused smugglers, goldsmiths and even dentists of melting down the old coins.

The dentists' union issued a denial Saturday that coins were being recycled into patients' teeth. "The silver in the coins cannot be used for fillings," Dr. Ghalib Al Jassim, head of the union, said.

Currency is a constant headache for Iraqi officials struggling against post-Gulf war inflation and the effects of U.N. trade sanctions.

Pre-war notes, trusted by users because they were printed abroad and harder to forge than newer locally produced bills, were withdrawn from circulation two weeks ago.

A central bank statement carried by Baghdad newspapers on Saturday blamed the scarcity of coins on "suspicious elements using the metal coins for purposes other than money circulation to wreck the national economy."

The Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiyah said: "The central bank has taken the necessary measures to check the phenomenon of the scarcity of small coins in circulation and in cooperation with the concerned authorities."

"The bank and the ministry of finance have told security organs to take the necessary measures to stop contemptible dealings using small change for illegal ends," Al Qadisiyah said.

The tomb consists of a limestone-paved courtyard and a room cut into the rock at one level and a series of four chambers underneath stretching deep into the desert hillside. It was built for a man named Nakh-Min, "overseer of chariots" and "messenger to foreign lands".

Ramses the Great reigned for 67 years in the 13th century B.C. during the new kingdom period of ancient Egypt, when the pharaoh controlled a military empire stretching into what is now Jordan and Syria.

The floor of the chamber is paved with black and white tiles. The walls are covered with paintings of the deceased in various poses, some of which are still in good condition. The paintings are in black ink on a white background.

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## Kaaba washed in traditional ceremony

MECCA (AP) — On behalf of King Fahd, Mecca Governor Prince Majeed early Saturday led the ceremony of the washing of the Holy Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine around which the Grand Mosque of Mecca is built.

The ceremony took place as customary on the first day of Zuhl Hijja, the Islamic calendar month during which Muslims from around the world gather at Mecca for the annual Hajj, the pilgrimage that is one of the five pillars of the faith.

The washing of the Kaaba, known as "ghusl", was attended by senior Saudi Arabian officials, accredited diplomats and some of the Muslims dignitaries who have arrived in Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj.

So far more than 600,000 Muslims have arrived in the kingdom for the Hajj.

The number is increasing day by day with an average of 26,000 arrivals daily by air through King Abdul Aziz International Airport in Jeddah. Thousands of others arrive by sea or by land.

The Kaaba is washed twice every year. Aside from the Zuhl Hijja one, it is also washed on the 15th of Shaaban, which precedes the Ramadan month of dawn-to-dusk fasting.

The ceremony entails washing the floor of the structure with water from zamzam, a nearby well which has been running since the days of Prophet Ismail. Ceramic brooms and rose water are also used.

The final rituals, following the Prophet Mohammad's footsteps 1400 years ago, start on May 29 with the ascent from Mecca to the outside plain of Mina, where the pilgrims will stay the night and proceed early morning next day to Arafat, which is about five kilometres (5.6 miles) away from Mina.

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## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Senator introduces bill on Libya sanctions

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. senator Friday introduced a bill which would carry tough penalties for companies and individuals who violate United Nations sanctions against Libya. Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut said the law is needed because of continued violations of the U.N. sanctions, ordered in 1992 to force Libya to give up for trial in Britain or the United States two suspects in the 1989 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland.

The sanctions banned air traffic to and from Libya, and sale of arms, aircraft, aircraft spare parts and related services to Libya. The new law would prevent any company which violates the sanctions from doing any business in the United States. It would increase the fine for Americans who violate the trade sanctions tenfold to \$100,000. It would increase the penalty for Americans who continue to work in Libya despite a U.S. prohibition on travel to Libya to \$50,000 for missing their passports. Mr. Lieberman said in a statement that the State Department estimates there are about 500 Americans still working in Libya, mainly in the oil industry. His bill would also facilitate relocation in the United States of any person who helped prevent "terrorist" acts against the United States or in the capture of a wanted "terrorist". Mr. Lieberman, a Democrat, said he consulted with officials of President Bill Clinton's administration in drafting the legislation.

### Saudis announce Haj month

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia declared the start of the Muslim Holy Month of Dhu'l-Hijja Saturday, giving the go-ahead for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. The pilgrimage reaches its climax on May 30, the ninth day of the Muslim month when more than a million white-robed pilgrims will gather at Mount Arafat — the site where the Prophet Mohammad preached his last sermon 14 centuries ago. Pilgrims then collect stones to throw at three monuments representing Satan and the following day, May 31, Muslims celebrate the start of 'Eid al Adha (feast of sacrifice), their most sacred feast.

### Crocodile goes missing in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police are scouring Tel Aviv for a Nile crocodile after its owner reported him stolen, dangerous, and in need of plenty of tender loving care. "His bite tears off flesh," owner Ami Dotan told the Associated Press, "but without proper care and feeding, he will die." Tel Aviv police spokesman Gad Doron confirmed police were on the lookout for the 1.20-metre crocodile, since Mr. Dotan reported the theft Thursday night. Police were considering publishing the croc's photo in newspapers if it was not recovered by Sunday. The stolen crocodile was part of an exhibit for a tourism fair on Tel Aviv's beach front. Mr. Dotan, who runs a reserve which is home to 1,000 crocodiles in the Jordan Valley, said he discovered the theft when he noticed a tear in the exhibit fence. "It could have been anyone," Mr. Dotan said. "Thousands of people have asked me if they could buy one as a pet — of course they can't." Mr. Dotan issued a warning saying the crocodile was dangerous over Israel's radio network. "If whoever stole him lets him loose on the streets, there could be trouble," he said. "Larger versions prey on lions and tigers."

### 'Kohl to fight against Arab boycott of Israel'

NEW YORK (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has told Jewish leaders that he will lead a drive to have the European Community (EC) states bar compliance with the Arab boycott of Israel, the World Jewish Congress (WJC) said Friday. Reporting on a private meeting that Mr. Kohl recently had with WJC President Edgar Bronfman and German Jewish leader Ignatz Bubis in Bonn, a WJC spokesman said Germany this month instituted stringent regulations that bar German companies from complying with the boycott. "Kohl also said that he will seek similar regulations within the EC that bar compliance with the Arab boycott," the spokesman said. He added that the Clinton administration has told the WJC that the United States at this summer's Group of Seven meeting of industrial powers in Japan will seek a statement barring compliance with the boycott. The German regulations which went into effect on May 1 bar German companies from issuing so-called boycott declarations, statements requested by Arab countries that companies are neither trading with Israel nor trading with companies that trade with Israel. The United States has had a similar law in effect for the last dozen years.

### 2 killed while planting bomb in Lebanon

MARIJAYOUN (AP) — Two guerrillas were killed Saturday when a bomb blew up as they tried to plant in Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon, security sources said. They said the pre-dawn explosion occurred on a road near the village of Debel in the western sector of the "security zone." The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the guerrillas apparently had infiltrated into the zone during the night to plant the bomb. Their identities and affiliation were not immediately known.

### U.S. forces treating Somalia veterans for malaria

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 40 U.S. army soldiers and Marines at bases across the country have come down with malaria since returning from duty in Somalia, officials said Friday. All are being treated with primaquine, a medicine designed to eradicate the parasite. In addition to the cases diagnosed after return to the United States, 46 U.S. service people were treated — all successfully — for cases of malaria while they were still in Somalia, 20 cases of malaria have been diagnosed at Fort Drum, New York. Army spokesman Major Rick Thomas said four soldiers based in North Carolina and Georgia also contracted the disease, which is a parasitic infection transmitted by the bite of a mosquito. Ten malaria cases returning from Somalia, according to Captain Perry considering, as a precaution, giving anti-malaria treatment to all soldiers who have left Somalia, with or without any symptoms, an official said. More than 30,000 American service-men and women participated in the Somalia humanitarian mission. Some remain as part of a United Nations peacekeeping force. All soldiers and Marines who served in Somalia were told ahead of time to take pills, and other preventative measures, to ward off malaria infection, officials said. Capt. Bishop said some apparently did not strictly follow the instructions.

**JORDAN TELEVISION**  
Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
17:30 ..... Les Cles de Fort Boyard  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Le Journal de L'histoire  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
21:30 ..... Executive Stress  
21:40 ..... The Good Guys  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... French Series

**PRAYER TIMES**

03:59 ..... Fajr  
05:29 ..... (Sunrise) Duhr  
12:32 ..... Asr  
16:13 ..... Maghrib  
19:25 ..... Isha

**CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 622566  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771231  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

**WEATHER**  
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. There will be a chance for scattered showers of rain, especially in the southern and eastern parts of Jordan, and winds will be northerly to moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy and dusty, with a chance for scattered showers, while winds will be northerly to moderate and seas calm.

Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:  
Dr. Salama Daboubi ..... 776751  
Dr. Ramzi Mizzawi ..... 794788  
Dr. Yousef Elda ..... 694916  
Dr. Yousef Samour ..... 615648  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 776336  
Al Azzam pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairooth pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shamsi pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najla pharmacy ..... 847632

Min/Max. temp. 12 / 24  
Aqaba ..... 19 / 32  
Dera ..... 14 / 30  
Jordan Valley ..... 17 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings:

**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

**EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 192, 61111, 637177  
Fire Brigade ..... 891226  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630221  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repsin ..... 623101  
Abdull Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power

**HOSPITALS**

AMMAN:  
Hassan Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 644281/6  
Aldah Maternity, J. Amn ..... 644412/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Mafes, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 664171/4  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Monaster Hospital ..... 672219  
The Islamic, Abdull ..... 666177/77  
Al-Ahli, Abdull ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Mahajra ..... 777101/2  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marfa ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674153

Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-33200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-33200

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:25 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
06:35 ..... Amman (RJ)  
08:10 ..... London (RJ)  
08:10 ..... Athens (RJ)  
08:10 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
08:10 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
08:10 ..... Rome (RJ)  
08:10 ..... Paris, Brnace (RJ)

06:25 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
06:35 ..... Amman (RJ)  
08:10 ..... London (RJ)  
08:10 ..... Athens (RJ)  
08:10 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
08:10 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
08:10 ..... Rome (RJ)  
08:10 ..... Paris, Brnace (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

07:05 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
07:20 ..... Beirut, Rome (A2)  
11:25 ..... Cairo (MS)  
14:30 ..... Doha, Bahrain (GF)  
14:45 ..... Moscow (SU)  
19:15 ..... Larnaca (CV)

**MARKET PRICES**

Up/down price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 700 / 700  
Banana ..... 650 / 650  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 620 / 620  
Beane ..... 540 / 450  
Cabbage ..... 70 / 40  
Carrot ..... 150 / 90  
Cauliflower ..... 250 / 180  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 120 / 80  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 240 / 180  
Eggplant ..... 200 / 180  
Garlic ..... 50 / 30  
Grapefruit ..... 250 / 200  
Lemon ..... 240 / 180  
Marrow (large) ..... 500 / 300  
Marrow (small) ..... 150 / 100  
Onion ..... 80  
Onion (dry) ..... 230 / 140  
Orange ..... 280 / 180  
Pepper (hot) ..... 450 / 350  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 200 / 150  
Potato ..... 210 / 160  
Spinach ..... 250 / 200

**DEPARTURES**

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 ..... Amman (RJ)  
07:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
08:20 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:20 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
12:20 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:20 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Rome (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Athens (RJ)  
12:50 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
13:10 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
13:10 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
13:10 ..... New Delhi, Bangkok (RJ)  
13:10 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
13:10 ..... Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)  
13:10 ..... Brnace, Paris (RJ)



MAY 23, 1993  
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# Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1993 3

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Princess Basma to inspect Mafrag

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday will visit Mafrag governorate to inspect social development services to the villages of Um Niam, Buweidaa, Hawamdeh, Manshieh and Sirhan. She will be accompanied by Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Mashaqbeh.

### Prince Abdullah visits PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein Saturday called at the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with Major General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan, the department director, in his office. The Prince also met with senior police officers and the PSD inspector general.

### Arab Geographers thank Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — Saturday participants in the Arab meeting on Geographic Information and Remote Sensing which concluded in Amman last week sent a cable to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, thanking him for his patronage of their meeting and his directives. They also voiced their pride in Jordan's leadership and people and thanked them for the hospitality they were accorded during their stay in Amman.

### Abu Jaber meets with PLO's Abed Rabbo

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Saturday met with member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee Yasser Abed Rabbo who conveyed to him a message addressed to His Majesty King Hussein from Palestine leader Yasser Arafat. The message deals with the developments in the Middle East peace process. Dr. Abu Jaber and Mr. Abed Rabbo exchanged views on the outcome of the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and preparations for the next rounds. The meeting was attended by the Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan.

### Minister says Saudi government providing all pilgrims' needs

JEDDAH (Petra) — Minister of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, who is at present in Saudi Arabia at the head of the Jordanian pilgrimage delegation, Saturday met with his Saudi counterpart, Sheikh Abdul Wahab Abdul Wase'. The two ministers discussed issues related to the pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, as well as facilities and services extended by the Saudi government to the pilgrims. Sheikh Tamimi said following the meeting that all official delegations leading pilgrims in Saudi Arabia received from the Saudi government all their needs and demands.

### Valley office begins 8-day health education

NORTH SHUNEH, The Jordan Valley (Petra) — The northern Jordan Valley district Social Development Department Saturday embarked on a health and social education programme in various parts of the district. The Director of the department said the programme, which is being implemented in cooperation with the Mother and Child Care Centres in the region, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and charity societies, will deal with issues ranging from social integration to begging. He added that the eight-day programme will also include lectures which will shed light on the role of charitable societies, their purposes and goals in the society, the objectives of the National Aid Fund (NAF), disabilities, child care, nutrition and birth control.

### Amman education office honours King

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman First Education Department Saturday organised a celebration marking the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers and Independence Day, which falls on May 25. The celebration included dances and songs, poetry recitals and theatrical shows. In observance of the two occasions, the Kufraja Sports Club in Ajloun district also organised a celebration which included speeches, national songs and dances and sports events.

### Zarqa honours King with exhibits

ZARQA (Petra) — An exhibition of books and handicrafts was opened Saturday at the Al Hashimiyah Vocational Training Centre in Zarqa. The exhibition, held in observance of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of constitutional powers, includes cultural, religious, scientific, economic and political books, in addition to photos of King Hussein's meetings with heads of state and visits to Jordanian cities and army units. The exhibition also includes works by students at the centre. Another exhibition of plastic arts was opened Saturday in Mus'ab Basic School in Ramtha city.

### Birth control group advises residents of Sahab

SAHAB (Petra) — A mobile clinic operated by the Jordanian Birth Control Society Saturday organised a free medical advice day in Sahab. Lecturing doctors spoke to the local residents about the importance of birth spacing and child diseases.

### Egyptian petrochemical team tours industries

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of workers representing the petrochemical industries in Egypt Saturday toured several industries and met with union leaders. The team, whose members will later hold talks with Jordanian workers union leaders, were also accompanied on tours of archaeological sites.

### Engineers to attend water workshop in Libya

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) will participate in a workshop on water sources in the Arab World scheduled to start in Tripoli, Libya Monday. The JEA will be represented at the three-day workshop by engineers Mohammad Abu Taha and Ali Al Khalil. The workshop, according to Mr. Abu Taha, will discuss water projects in the Arab World, dams, water pumping projects and the preparation of an atlas on water in the Arab World. He said the Jordanian delegation will submit to the workshop two working papers on water sources and uses, and the water recycling projects in Jordan.

### Jordan to attend ILO conference in Geneva

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions will take part in the meetings of the 89th International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference which will open in Geneva June 1. The conference, expected to last for three weeks, will discuss union freedoms, workforce movements and international conventions on labour-related issues.

## Yemeni envoy says Jordan's democratisation is a model to be followed in Arab World

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni Ambassador to Jordan Ali Abu Lahhoum Saturday described the democratisation process in Jordan as a model that should be followed in the Arab World, expressing his hope that the Arab states will take more steps in the direction of democracy on the basis of political freedom, pluralism, respect for human rights and public participation in decision-making.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the unification of Yemen, Mr.

## Arab-German trade group chief outlines ways to boost commerce

AMMAN (Petra) — Luthar Spaeth, head of the Arab-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Saturday met with officials from the Jordanian public and private sectors and called for further bolstering of Jordanian-German trade and industrial cooperation.

Speaking at a meeting with Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour, Mr. Spaeth said the two countries can boost their trade balance through joint investments in small and medium size industrial projects and an increase in reciprocal flow of national products.

He also said that Jordan and Germany can promote cooperation in the transfer of technology and in economic fields.

Regarding the Middle East, Mr. Spaeth said Germany supports efforts for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Spaeth, who arrived here Friday on a three-day visit to Jordan, reviewed with Dr. Ensour bilateral trade and prospects for boosting industrial trade and scientific and cultural cooperation.

Dr. Ensour outlined the Kingdom's incentives to encourage foreign investors and urged Germany to import more Jordanian national products to help adjust the balance of trade which, he said, is heavily in favour of Germany.

many. The minister said that this can be done through raising Bonn's imports of Jordanian phosphate and potash.

Referring to developments in the past years, Dr. Ensour said the standard of living in Jordan took a turn downwards as a result of the wars and the sudden waves of expatriates and migrants arriving in the Kingdom.

But he voiced Jordan's gratitude to Germany for helping to support the Kingdom's national economy over the past decades.

Under agreements signed in 1960 upgraded in 1974, Germany and Jordan concurred on economic cooperation and the protection of investors' capitals in either country.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade said Jordan last year imported JD 153,518,500 worth of German products and sold Germany JD 1,005,400 worth of Jordanian products.

Discussions of Jordanian-German trade and economic cooperation also took place at a meeting between Mr. Spaeth and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in the presence of Dr. Ensour and Khalid Abu Hassan, the president of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The two sides reviewed ways to promote industrial and trade cooperation and areas where Jordan can benefit from German expertise in light and heavy in-

dustries, as well as in communications and health fields.

Mr. Abu Hassan met earlier with the German official who praised German-Jordanian economic relations over the past three decades.

Dr. Spaeth stressed that he intended to gather more information on Jordanian industry and the Kingdom's investments and economic system.

Urging the private and public sectors in Jordan to promote German-Jordanian cooperation in economic fields, Dr. Spaeth said Jordan was eligible to play a prominent economic role in the region because of its proximity to Europe and its central geographical location.

Mr. Spaeth pledged that the Arab-German Industrial and Commercial Chamber of Industry will play a major role in providing Jordanian exporters with information and data about European markets.

He urged the Amman Chamber of Industry to dispatch a team to Germany soon, to follow up on the present discussions and to examine German and European markets.

Following the initial talks, Mr. Spaeth and his delegation gathered with Jordanian businessmen for the first workshop during which they con-

sidered a general review of local and German markets, prospects for exporting Jordanian products



HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Saturday receives at the Royal Court Luthar Spaeth, head of the Arab-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce to review German-Jordanian cooperation and current efforts for further increasing German investments in Jordan and the transfer of German technology to the Kingdom. Mr. Spaeth paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts to enhance democracy in Jordan and said he was impressed with the Kingdom's accomplishments in economic fields. Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour, President of the Amman Chamber of Industry Khalid Abu Hassan and President of the Amman Chamber of Commerce Mohammad Asfour were present at the audience (Petra photo)

Mr. Spaeth met later with age German companies to set up joint ventures with Jordanian businessmen in the Kingdom and discussed economic relations. They reviewed ways to encourage Jordan's exports to Germany.

## Jordan, Morocco to reduce duty on specific items traded

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Moroccan joint economic committee, which last week ended a meeting in Rabat, agreed on partial and full exemptions of customs duty on defined lists of commodities produced and exchanged between both countries.

The Jordanians and Moroccans will now exchange lists of products they wish to have exempted from duty according to the agreement, said Marwan Awad, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

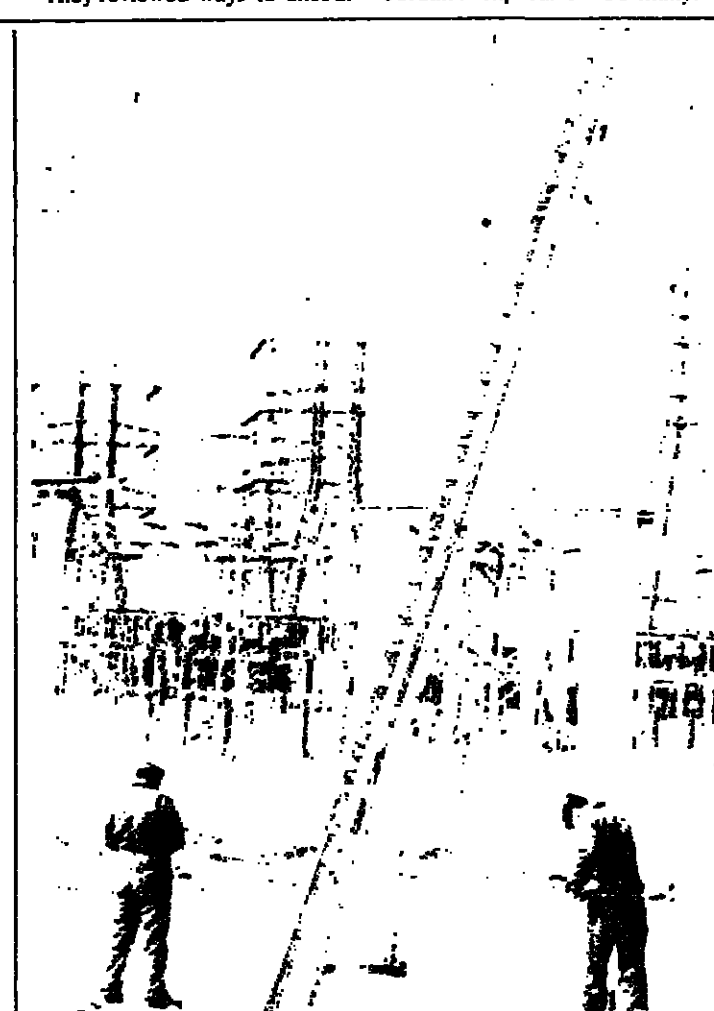
The two sides also agreed to a number of steps to be taken mutually, to facilitate participation of businesses in trade fairs held in Morocco and Jordan and the formation of a follow up committee to pursue the implementation of agreements, said Mr. Awad.

He said the committee also decided to study proposals prepared by a task force that met in Amman in December last year, pertaining to promoting means of transporting of goods.

In industry, the two sides agreed that Jordan would benefit from Moroccan handicraft industries and Morocco will provide Jordan with experts to organise training programmes in handicraft techniques.

Also, the two sides agreed on promoting cooperation in tourism-related fields, in implementation of a 1978 tourism protocol.

The joint committee decided to hold another meeting in July in Amman, according to Mr. Awad.



The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) expects to complete its rural area electrification projects by year end 1994 (file photo)

## 6 firms win tenders for rural power projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Saturday announced that six tenders worth JD 2 million have been awarded to local firms to set networks of medium voltage electric power that will benefit 218 villages and settlements with a total population of about 75,000 residents.

JEA director General Mohammad Arafah said the project is part of a general electrification scheme, covering 450 villages and settlements in the rural area as originally announced by the government last year.

Next month the JEA will announce other tenders for laying low voltage networks and for the

installation of 8,000 poles to carry cables extending 450 kilometres. The electrification project in the rural area, according to Mr. Arafah, will cost JD 25 million. Funding for the project is being supplemented by the additional one fils per kilo watt charge levied on consumers since last year.

Mr. Arafah said at least 500 engineers, technicians and workers will be needed to carry out this project.

He added that the end of 1993 will see the electrification of at least 300 villages and settlements and complete electrification of the country is expected by the end of 1994.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Fragments: Weavings and Works on Paper" by Kevin A. Hluch and Margaret M. Hluch at the American Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Patrice Pain at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Armenian miniature exhibition adapted by Clara Metzghopian at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of sculptures by Artist Abdul Hayy Musallam at Baladna Art Gallery.

### FILM

- ★ 1975 feature entitled "Dog Day Afternoon" at 6 p.m. at the American Centre (130 minutes).

## IN GRATITUDE

With all their love and thanks Fouad and Abba Sayegh extend to MISS RULA C. NABEEL & MISS RACHEL THOMAS their heartfelt gratitude for the grand piano recital they gave last Wednesday the 19th of May on the fourth memorial of

### LOUAI SAYEGH

The grand performance and the noble music surpassed the bounds of time, and quickened the moment with the mystical essence of the eternal world of beauty where all, who believe, will dwell with their beloved into eternity. Fouad and Abba, as well, extend their deepest appreciation to all who shared with them the occasion, and endowed the evening with a smile to remember inspite of the continuum of sorrow and grief.



## Jordan Times

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## Now Israeli referendums override international laws?

THE ISRAELI people could very well be divided over the issue of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The radicals among them would contend that the West Bank and Gaza are parts of "greater Israel" and the Palestinians living there are aliens who ultimately should be evicted and expelled. The moderates would not mind pulling out of the occupied territories, or most of them, and would like to see the Palestinians gain their national rights. That, however, does not give the Israelis the licence to decide the future of the occupied territories either in a referendum or otherwise. International law that overrides all other national laws or national will has resolved that Israel should withdraw from the occupied territories.

The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, might hope that by holding a referendum the Israelis might say yes to withdrawal. That might be the result and it might not. But the fact remains that such a referendum is illegal from an international point of view. There is no pretext other than Israel's claim that the occupied Palestinian lands were "disputed lands." And even when that is the case, it is not the Israelis — the occupiers — who should be polled whether or not they should withdraw, but the Palestinians, the owners of the land and its inhabitants for hundreds of years. Of course it is more than obvious that the Palestinians want the Israeli occupation to end and it has cost them dearly in blood to get their message through to the Israelis and the entire world. It is therefore highly immoral of Rabin to intend to poll the Israelis on the issue.

Mr. Rabin does not need a mandate to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza, the mandate is embodied in U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 and all the other pertinent resolutions including 181, which originally partitioned Palestine between Palestinians and Jews. It is therefore incumbent on Palestinians, Arabs and the U.N. to oppose such an Israeli move.

What Mr. Rabin should be doing, for which he got a mandate from the Israeli people, is pressing ahead for peace and for complete withdrawal. This last chance for peace need not be wasted for the sake of internal Israeli politics. The interests of the Israeli people and the peoples of the whole region do not depend on who is in power in Israel. Nor does it depend on the narrow interests of the Israelis themselves. The choice of peace should not be left for radicals, either on this or that side. What is needed are bold policies and bold decisions. The march for peace has already been started. It should not be derailed for whatever reason.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

EVERY TIME the Palestinians and the other Arabs try to increase efforts to reach peace, Israel steps up its repression in the occupied Arab lands and hardens its position at the negotiating table, said Al Dstour daily Saturday. To be noticed also, is the fact that Israel's malpractices tend to intensify during the peace sessions, something which was particularly apparent during the ninth round of talks, to whose failure contributing, the paper noted. It seems that Israel still lacks understanding of the fact that violence and oppression can only breed violence, frustration and desperation, said the paper. The Israelis have already tried their futile malpractices in a bid to stifle the intifada, but these practices have all ended in failure, said the daily. Nothing short of respect for the Palestinian people's human rights and the right to self-determination can satisfy the Palestinians or end the intifada, added the paper. Israel's present policies, which are backed by its allies, do not help end the violence in the region, and Israel's intransigence at the negotiating table can by no means bring Israel closer to the Arab states, stressed the paper. It said that the Palestinian people would not stop the intifada as a price to be paid for peace which does not take into account an exchange for land for the full implementation of U.N. resolutions on the Palestine problem.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dstour daily commented on a statement by the head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, noting that the man has justly demanded a suspension of the Arab-Israeli talks as they are heading nowhere. Being a Gazan, besieged like his fellow Gazans by the Israeli troops and living a miserable life due to the continued repression and occupation, Dr. Abdul Shafi's demands are justified as they reflect his deep frustration, said Taher Al Udwan. The writer said that while the Arabs will continue discussions on whether to participate in the next session, once the Eid Al Adha is over, the U.S. would be exercising new pressures on the Arab governments to return to the negotiating table with Israel and making new empty promises to them. It would be most reasonable for the PLO to respond favourably to Dr. Abdul Shafi's demands simply because the nine sessions have all proved futile, the writer said. It has to be mentioned that by its previous consent to participate in the talks, the PLO had exposed itself to severe criticism by its friends and opponents alike, said the writer. He said that should the PLO go to the 10th session, it would no doubt risk losing Palestinian people's support, as long as the head of the delegation is demanding a suspension of the negotiations, the writer said, such a call is worth considering by the PLO leadership because Dr. Abdul Shafi is in a position to know if the talks were achieving progress or not, the writer pointed out. He said that since the ninth session was a fiasco, thanks to the U.S. empty and false promises, there is no reason for any Arab party to involve itself in further discussions with Israel.

## When peace is water under the bridge

By Robert Fisk

THE LITANI River, southern Lebanon — four Lebanese soldiers guard the bridge over the Litani. Beneath its concrete supports and below the wreckage of the iron railway bridge the Israelis destroyed in 1976, there froths one of the great rivers of antiquity, mentioned in the books of the Egyptian 19th Dynasty, known to the ancients as the Leontes, muddy and dark, wasting itself in the Mediterranean. Waste being the operative word. In spring the Litani is a torrent, pouring through the valley below Beaufort Castle, sloshing through the front lines of Israeli occupation troops and Lebanese soldiers, racing through the orchards north of Tyre before exhausting itself in the sea. No wonder the Israelis watch this river with so much desire; no wonder the Lebanese army guards it so jealously. In any Middle East peace treaty, the name Litani will be almost as important as the signatures.

Already its flow and precipitation is being calculated by the nations that may benefit from its waters in the aftermath of peace. Lebanon produces 10 billion cubic metres of water a year, enough to satisfy threefold the total annual water deficiency of Syria, Jordan and Israel. Lebanese water, in the opinion of one of the country's economists, Marwan Iskandar, represents the single most important potential for technical cooperation between Arabs and Israelis if — if — their 45-year conflict comes to a formal end.

It is easy to identify the economic consequences of peace. Syria could sell oil and gas to Israel at world market prices. Israel could sell its agricultural technology to Syria, while a future Palestinian state — if that is what is to be born — may develop a fishing industry in Gaza linked to a new agricultural and industrial base in the West Bank, not to mention (as Israelis already know) a cheap labour market. The World Bank, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are already working on plans for the cooperation of Israel with the three remaining frontline Arab states and a Palestinian "entity".

The optimism that drifts across from the peace talks in Washington — from the Israelis, Jordanians and Syrians rather than the Palestinians — may be illusory. Whatever concessions the Israelis appear to make in Washington, their army's repression in Gaza — and their previous covert assistance to the fundamentalists in an attempt to counter Yasser Arafat's influence — is fuelling a civil war between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Islamic resistance movement Hamas, a conflict that might provide a convincing excuse for refusing to leave the West Bank.

When Israel retreated from the Chouf mountains and then Sidon, its arming of both Christian and Druze militias produced just such a civil war in Lebanon. And without a Palestinian settlement, there will be no peace in the Middle East, no matter how many signatures are scribbled across a treaty.

Nevertheless, it may be time for all sides to look at the economic opportunities and disappointments peace would bring. For Israel, an end of the Arab boycott — which Israel claims has cost it more than \$40bn. For Palestinians, an end to oppression and the start of international Palestinian trade.

For Israel and Syria, a massive reduction in the military — 20 per cent of Israel's population is currently in the armed forces; 10 per cent of Syria's. The massive foreign debts of Israel (\$34bn), Syria (\$20bn) and Jordan (\$10bn) are largely defence costs. The United States will probably exercise its usual generosity by wiping out Israel's debt, and Syria may get away with repaying only half its bills to the former Soviet Union

and Eastern Europe.

Israel could sell fruit and flowers to its Arab neighbours. Yet the entire agricultural balance of the region could be changed if Lebanese water were harnessed. According to Mr. Iskandar, Lebanon could — with new dams and electricity generating stations and billions of dollars of investment — irrigate large areas of Syria, Israel and Jordan and provide itself, Syria and Israel with electrical power.

With a blindness typical of U.S. policy towards the region in the mid-Eighties, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think-tank, examined the Middle East's water resources the failed to include Lebanon, on the grounds that it had enough water and was anyway "politically unsettled". Needless to say, the study ignored Iraq, although Saddam Hussein was then waging war against Iran.

Syria's new tourist agreements with Lebanon — bus tours already take visitors from Beirut to the Roman ruins of Palmyra in Syria — could be extended to Jordan and on to the new Palestine and Israel. But Israel may find itself disappointed by the fruits of peace. It is unlikely to reap much benefit from the oil and gas industries when Western conglomerates control so much of the Gulf's resources.

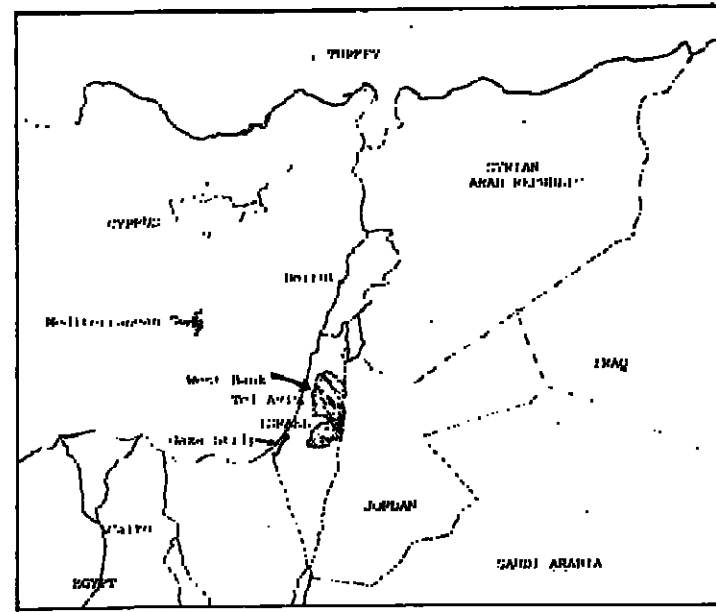
**"Lebanon produces 10 billion cubic metres of water a year, enough to satisfy threefold the total annual water deficiency of Syria, Jordan and Israel."**

Israeli banks could have difficulty competing with the big international Arab-Jewish bankers (who already demonstrate how well the two peoples can work together in finance). Textiles in Syria are cheaper than in Israel. Lebanese wine is incomparably better than Israeli wine. As Mr. Iskandar points out, Israel produces the best surgical instruments and its competence in cut diamonds is undeniable. But who will want to buy its sophisticated weaponry?

There are suspicions, too, among the Arabs that the dimensions of "peace" could be greater than any of them realise. A Syrian journalist, cynical enough to require anonymity, believes that post-peace development programmes would be regional rather than Arab-Israeli. "You're going to find the Americans will want to bring in Turkey, their new policeman to the north. They want Turkey to control Iraq. Turkey controls the Tigris and Euphrates, which run into Syria and Iraq. Then Iraq will want to be involved, politically if not economically. What will this mean?"

And who will want to invest in the Middle East if the gale force winds of the Islamic revival make the signature on any peace treaty irrelevant? Lebanon, with its large Christian community and cosmopolitanism, may have ridden the Islamic storm successfully. Syria resolved it "satisfactorily", in the words of the Syrian journalist, in the bloody 1982 repression of the Hamas rebels who wanted to turn Syria into an Islamic republic.

But is Jordan safe? Is "Palestine"? And what about Egypt, whose earlier peace treaty yielded so few dividends? Will the Arabs who sign up for peace have to deal as ruthlessly with their Islamists as Syria did? Which raises the dark suspicion that if the Arab regimes at peace with Israel were "de-Islamised", there might be the makings of a future Arab-Israeli alliance. Who against but Iran? Is that what the "peace" talks in Washington are leading to? — The Independent.



## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

## Imposition of sales tax is inevitable

After the successful encounter on Jordan Television with Finance Minister Basel Jarrah, aired last Tuesday evening, the outspoken opponents of the sales tax, who filled the atmosphere with their noise in the name of the poor, the limited-income groups, the local industries and the consumers, found themselves in a real embarrassing situation similar to a political and intellectual scandal.

Mr. Jarrah is known to be extremely truthful. Even his policy opponents never doubted his credibility. What he said in the interview was very simple and straight forward. Following are the main points:

— The sales tax is not a new or additional tax, it is merely an improved and reformed version of the consumption tax which is currently in force.

— Replacing the current consumption tax by the sales tax will not cause any net increase in the tax burden payable by the people; if anything, the end result is a net reduction.

— The application of the sales tax and the abolishing of the consumption tax will not result in any increase in the cost of living index or, for that matter, cause a net rise in the level of prices in the country.

— The sales tax will expand the base of the tax to include some 26 new commodities, most of which are nonessential or luxurious. Only seven of them are manufactured locally. Examples: Artificial flowers and window umbrellas.

— The bulk of the commodities traded in the market will not be influenced by the application of the sales tax, because the sales tax which will be charged to them is exactly the same as the consumption tax, no more, no less. The prices of some of the remaining commodities (luxury goods) will rise slightly while the prices of others (basic goods) will decline. The number of commodities that will become cheaper is more than that of commodities which will become more expensive. The overall end result is in favour of the consumers, especially the poor and the limited-income groups.

— A number of commodities which are now subject to tax will be exempted as soon as the sales tax law becomes operative. The

prices of such commodities will decline. They are all basic goods, essential to the poor and low-income groups. They are mostly related to food, medicine, baby supplies and students' amenities. — There will be no change as far as imports are concerned. Both the present consumption tax and the sales tax which will replace it have the same rates and are applicable to the same base, i.e., the cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value, thus the price of imported goods will not be altered.

— What is new for the national industry are the facilities and advantages produced by the draft law of the sales tax to replace the stringent and complicated procedures and heavy fines under the current consumption tax.

— The passage of sales tax law is urgent and could not be deferred because it is an integral part of the economic adjustment programme, without which we will have to take alternative fiscal measures, much harsher than the sales tax. We may find ourselves without a programme if the IMF decided that Jordan defaulted and did not abide by the programme. Such an eventuality will bring us back to square one as far as the crisis of foreign indebtedness and shortage of foreign exchange is concerned. We shall also lose the soft loans and outright grants, which are badly needed, at least in the coming five years and which are now flowing to the treasury from the industrialised countries and the international institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF.

Of course, the minister should have addressed the public earlier, to convince the people and have them on his side, instead of leaving the public opinion to be misled by uninformed demagogic politicians and columnists who were able to mobilise public opinion against the sales tax based on false information.

After the convincing facts regarding the sales tax, all political parties, unions, and writers which raised their loud voices against the sales tax are required to apologise for the noise and distortion they have created. The government should also go ahead and issue the sales tax law and protect the country's economic achievements, including fiscal and monetary stability, high investment rate and unprecedented economic growth.

## Bosnian Serb army chief didn't want to be soldier

By Paul Holmes  
Reuters

PALE, Bosnia — General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb army chief who has been named as a potential war criminal, reaches across the table and offers cigarettes.

"Come on," he says. "Let's smoke the pipe of peace." It is night and Gen. Mladic, a stocky, pug-nosed 50-year-old career officer western diplomats call the Bosnian Napoleon and a ruthless fanatic, is relaxed and smiling.

He had just signed a ceasefire with the commander of the Bosnian Croat militia to complement a truce he has struck with the commander of Muslim-led government forces his army have all but defeated in 13 months of civil war.

Muslims and Croats, former allies against the Serbs, are fighting each other in the city of Mostar, digging what Gen. Mladic calls a "mass grave" for themselves in the Neretva River valley.

Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina have just finished voting in a referendum certain to reject a U.N.-backed peace plan which Gen. Mladic regards as part of a plot led by Germany and the Vatican to divide the Orthodox Christian world.

"I'm fed up with fighting," Gen. Mladic said. "Right now I could push them (Muslims and Croats) into the sea but I don't want to do that. I want this resolved by political means."

Gen. Mladic leads an army in control of 70 per cent of Bosnian territory on which Bosnian Serb political leaders are defiantly trying to carve out a republic of their own.

Apparently untroubled by the prospect of possible western air strikes or action on the ground by foreign troops whom Gen. Mladic says will "leave their bones" in Bosnia, the general says the world can do nothing about it.

On Monday, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic apologised for "irresponsible and emotional" threats at the weekend by the outspoken Mladic to bomb western cities if the West intervened in Bosnia.

Born in World War II in Kalinovik in eastern Herzegovina, Gen. Mladic has been one of the paramount military figures in almost two years of ethnic fighting in the shattered Balkan federation.

In the 1991 war of secession in Croatia, he headed the Yugoslav army corps in Knin, seat of the rebel republic Serbs have declared in the one third of Croatia they have seized.

Last May, he was named head of the Yugoslav army in Sarajevo. Days later the Yugoslav army pulled out of Bosnia and Gen. Mladic took over command of the Bosnian Serb army.

"I didn't want to be a soldier do I like weapons," Gen. Mladic said in a two-hour interview that ranged over the Yugoslav conflict, his lonely childhood and his views on religion, communism and mother Serbia.

"I wanted to be a surgeon and it's a pity I didn't study medicine...I thought I'd spend my life in peace," he said.



Ratko Mladic

unzipped a camouflage coat and the jerkin beneath. "Look, I'm not armed now," he said.

His words are stunning in the context of Bosnia, where Gen. Mladic's artillery has brought death and destruction to the besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo and suffering to the Muslim enclaves of Zepa and Srebrenica.

"I regret that any civilians have been killed and suffered on our side or their side," Gen. Mladic said when asked about the Serb onslaught. The blame, he said, lay with Muslims.

"Would you tolerate it if I attacked your family? If I went to your home with a Kalashnikov, would you just sit back and do nothing if I killed your family?" he asked.

He is untroubled by the talk of a possible trial before a U.N. war crimes tribunal.

"I don't have anything to be ashamed of, not in my life and not in this war," he said. "I defend my people. To defend one's people is the highest honour and duty."

Ratko Mladic grew up alone. His father, a fighter with Tito's World War II partisans, was killed fighting Nazi German occupiers in 1945 when Mladic was two. He left home and a sister and his mother, to whom he is devoted, at an early age for boarding school in Belgrade.

Despite his ability to breathe fire against those he sees as his enemies, Gen. Mladic can be charming and witty. He blames the media and their "monstrous lies" for the world's sympathy for the Muslims and his image as butcher of Bosnia.

He says he does not hate Muslims and Croats and has little time for religion despite regarding Bosnia's war as a step on the West's way to diminishing orthodox Russia "as much as possible as I did to Srebrenica and Zepa".

Though he says he respects Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, co-authors of the peace plan, he is dismissive of attempts by foreign politicians to pacify the Balkans.

The first time he attended peace talks in Geneva, he said, he regarded Mr. Vance and Lord Owen as gods. The next time he realised half the officials there "don't even know where Bosnia is".

"The third time I went I knew I was a master," he said, referring to his knowledge of the military situation on the ground in Bosnia.

## LETTERS

### Brevity reads better

To the Editor:

I do not subscribe to Mr. K. A. Hluch's point of view, expressed in his letter to the editor (Cardinal points, Jordan Times, May 20-21, 1993) regarding Rami Khouri's column of May 11; and though I do not intend to discuss or analyse any of the two gentlemen's ideas, I openly and shamelessly declare that I usually share Mr. Khouri's opinion on the said subject, in its broad lines at least.

I had started reading Mr. Hluch's letter with interest; that is up to the last two paragraphs. What began as reasonable and acceptable criticism, presented with plausible arguments for the reader to accept or reject, ended in a cheap form of mockery with personal, offensive insinuations against Mr. Khouri.

True, democracy means Mr. Hluch is free to write in any form or style he chooses. I just want to tell him that the way he ended his letter made the whole of it much less believable. I just wish he did without the last two paragraphs.

Jean-Claude Elias,  
Amman.

### Tolerance on equal grounds

To the Editor:

Aboard a Royal Jordanian flight, in mid-air, I read with interest the article written by Zuleikha Abu Rishch about religion and nationalism (Religion and nationalism could forge a healthy nation, Jordan Times, May 15, 1993). Until I read the article, I did not know that religion, especially Islam, could be divided into "pure" and "political," and that the "pure" one which the writer believes to be the correct type, is the one which is practised by her mother and which caters for the needs of the spirit and the relationship between man and his creator.

Such a description of religion is not only secular but is also untrue for most religions, especially Islam. A glance through the Koran or, for this purpose the Bible, clearly reveals that these books of documented revelations do not only cater for man's relationship with God but also with his fellow human beings. It is man who, for reasons of belief, disbelief or special interests, decides to take some or all of the teachings of religion.

The secular movement in the West was in fact responsible for the reinterpretation of religion in favour of excluding it from any say in the running of peoples' mundane affairs. It is also true that secularists in many parts of the Muslim World have attempted to do to Islam what their counterparts did to Christianity in the West.

If a certain segment of the community adopts a secular interpretation of religion and struggles, using peaceful and democratic means, to uphold, enforce or spread such an interpretation and resorts to political power to ensure the accomplishment of its objective, why should opponents of this interpretation, who believe in the comprehensive and total adoption and implementation of religious teachings, be deprived of the right to do the same, and have political aspirations — just like the secularists — in order to ensure a full and proper implementation of the principles they believe in and defend? Is there any fairness or justice in ascribing legitimacy to certain political ideologies while denying the same to others?

Ms. Abu Rishch is perfectly entitled to her opinion, but she certainly has no right to demand that her opponents be denied the right to be politically involved or active.

Although I am a strong believer that Islam, unlike many other religions, caters for spiritual and mundane requirements of man, and that it was revealed for the purpose of providing man with guidelines in all aspects of life, this is not the place or time to try and convince Ms. Abu Rishch that Islam is not what she believes it to be.

My main concern here is to invite Ms. Abu Rishch, secularists, liberals, Islamists and all groups of various ideological commitments and political programmes to agree on a basic common denominator, namely democracy.

In a democracy, people exercise their right to disagree and argue among themselves, but without any individual or group having the right alone to exclude others or prevent them from appealing to the people, who issue the final verdict.

We must all recognise the fact that a spectrum of opinions and degrees of varying intensity (from radicalism to moderation) exist in every human group or party or congregation. This applies to the Islamists just as it applies to secularists, liberals and others. This phenomenon of variation is by no means characteristic to Arab or Muslim communities, it exists throughout human communities in the world, past and present, and will always manifest itself in the future.

The only means to deal with differences is to genuinely opt for democratisation, a process that is conditionally accompanied by tolerance and toleration.

Azzam Tamimi,  
Centre for the Study of Democracy,  
University of Westminster,  
London.



## Escalating violence from Islamist groups raises questions

By Tom Porteous

CAIRO, Egypt — Although the recent bomb explosions in Cairo's chaotic Tahrir Square could hardly be heard above the drone of traffic, the roar of bus engines and screams of car horns, the attackers could hardly have chosen a target which contains in one place more symbols of the establishment they seek to undermine.

At one end of Tahrir Square stands the largest and most despised department of the Egyptian bureaucracy, the Mugamma'a, where those Egyptian citizens who do not have access to some powerful patron must queue for hours and often bribe officials if they are to obtain indispensable documents, certificates and identity papers.

Next to the Mugamma'a is the American University regarded by the Islamic groups as a symbol of the cultural corruption or westernisation of the privileged layer of Egyptian society. On the other side of Tahrir Square the Egyptian Museum is not only one of the chief attractions for a tourist industry which the Islamic extremists have vowed to destroy, but also houses the treasures of a pre-Islamic Egyptian history which they feel should be ignored.

Beside the museum is the Nile Hilton, of which the bars, casino and discotheque are anathema to the extremists. The hotel is flanked on one side by the headquarters of the ruling National Party which has won every election since it was established and has consistently blocked attempts in the Egyptian parliament to secure a legal political role for the Islamic opposition. On the other side of the Nile Hilton is the Arab League which now coordinates cooperation between a number of Arab governments in what is a concerted campaign against political Islam throughout the Arab World.

The recent bomb attacks and other terrorist actions such as the shooting of policemen are pointing to an escalation of the conflict between the government and militant Islamic groups. Psychologically, the bombs in Tahrir Square have brought home to middle class Egyptians the fact that militant Islam is no longer a

phenomenon confined to the poor cities of southern Egypt or the overcrowded slums of Cairo and Alexandria. And the increasing violence has given the lie to the assurances of the Ministry of the Interior that the security situation is under control.

Inside the heavily guarded Interior Ministry, General Baha Al Din Ibrahim, director of the Public Relations Department, tries to minimise the problem. "This problem has been going on for a long time, for nearly half a century. It used to happen that these groups would carry out some attacks and then when the police faced them they stopped. This is what happened after the assassination of President Sadat (in 1981). This time we want a police force to root out the extremists, to put an end to their activities. We want society to feel safe from these groups for the next 10 or 20 years."

Until recently the violence associated with militant Islam was limited to rare assassination attempts against senior government figures, relatively sporadic sectarian vandalism and fairly regular confrontations between police and members of Islamic groups. On the whole, few people were affected by the violence or even knew that it was happening.

But gradually over the past few years the violence has become more widespread and more diverse in its nature. The Islamic groups began to single out writers and journalists as targets of assassination, as well as government officials. Then they hit at the tourist industry in Upper Egypt, the killing several foreigners. Now they have brought their campaign right into the heart of Cairo. Every day now brings news of another attack, more arrests or a new counter-terrorist operation on the part of the police. And every day terrorism and extremism are the subject of numerous editorials and commentaries in newspapers, radio and television.

Much of the comment, as well as statements from the police, focuses on the international aspect of the wave of violence, especially after the bombing of the New York Trade Centre and the subsequent arrests of several Arab men. It is alleged by people

like Gen. Baha Al Din that the Islamic groups in Egypt are acting in cooperation with Islamic movements in other parts of the Arab World and that together, guided by leaders living abroad, they are planning their strategy for the whole region.

As proof of this, senior officers in the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior and officials in the Information Ministry point to the similarity between the wording of the statements of these groups issued in response to crises such as the Gulf war and the Bosnian conflict. Furthermore, according to Gen. Baha Al Din, underground tapes produced by different Islamic groups in different Arab countries as part of their propaganda campaign are clearly derived from one source. The police claim that different groups in Egypt, and Algeria for example, but it is nothing in Libya and it is nothing in Saudi Arabia. In Jordan there is a problem but it is not to the same degree, not in the same style. You cannot say it is a severe problem for these countries. Of course they must be aware of it and expecting it and they have to protect themselves. But there is a big difference between those who face the problem and those who expect it."

Since the Iranian revolution in 1979 and the assassination of President Sadat by Islamic militants two years later, the Egyptian government has frequently accused Tehran of supporting Islamic groups in Egypt. Diplomatic relations have been almost non-existent. Now the Algerian government too, which used to have normal relations with the Islamic republic, has accused Iran of supporting the violent campaign of militant Islamic groups in Algeria and has cut diplomatic ties with Tehran. Egypt and Algeria also accuse Sudan, where the National Islamic Front has recently emerged as the ideological influence behind the military regime of President Omar Bashir.

"The main evidence we have against Iran," says General Baha Al Din, "is that Iran itself announced that one of its main policies is to export its Islamic revolution to other countries. As for Sudan, when we arrested

some suspects here they confessed that they took their training in camps in Sudan. That's the first evidence. And second, we have seized many different kinds of weapons coming from the south. Our police and the army are working together on the southern borders and we believe that most of the weapons in the hands of the Islamic groups are coming from Sudan. Can we say that the Sudanese government itself is involved in this traffic? At least it is sure that the government did not take any strong steps to stop it."

The alleged involvement of Sudan and Iran in support of the Islamic groups is used to justify the particularly harsh policies which Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria are now pursuing against the groups. Repressive tactics and counter-attacks are the main strategy of the Egyptian government. Yet observers point out that trying to cure some of the social ills and allowing Islamists to express themselves on the political scene would do much to defuse the situation.

And there is the problem of police behaviour: Human rights organisations in North Africa have now built up a substantial catalogue of abuses being carried out by the police in the campaign against militant Islam. Even if these abuses are not coordinated there seems to be a pattern of state violence and intimidation which some critics say is counter-productive. Arbitrary arrests, torture, military trials, the detention and torture of relatives of fugitive suspects including their wives and children, the deliberate killing of unarmed suspects by "death squads", the rounding up of all the young men in villages or slums — the dossier of abuses compiled by human rights organisations in the region makes depressing reading.

One of the achievements of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) has been not only to provide an insight into the dynamics of the conflict between the government and militant Islam, but also to question both the government's and the groups' version of the conflict. For instance Hisham Mubarak, a lawyer who has closely followed the trials of militant groups on

behalf of the EOHR, is convinced that Sudanese or Iranian support for the militants operating in Egypt is being overplayed. If foreign involvement plays a minor part in the problem, critics of the government's strong-arm tactics say, the effectiveness of these methods in the campaign against extremist activities should be questioned. After all, people point out — not only in private conversation but also in the main-line press — the problem seems to be getting worse not better.

The obsession of governments with a pan-Arab militant Islamic plot to destabilise the region has blinded them to the more important domestic sources of the problem of militant Islam, according to Fahmy Howaidi, a columnist at Al-Ahram, the largest Egyptian daily. "I think the main mistake of the government," he says, "is that they thought the people are difficult to admit that you have a problem inside the country. It is difficult to say that we are having

social, economic, political problems. It is easier to say those people are supported or provoked by certain external sources or organisations."

"As long as the government is closing doors against legal political Islamic activities," says Mr. Howaidi, "I think things will get worse. We talk about cooperation between certain Arab countries in the security field against Islamic groups. We should ask why are these countries having problems with Islamic groups. The main problem is that authorities are insisting in oppressing the Islamic political groups."

Mr. Howaidi points out that in Arab countries like Jordan where the Islamic opposition has been allowed to participate in political life there is no serious violent threat from Islamic groups. "As long as there remains this political exclusion of political Islamic activities," he says, "I don't think the issue could be solved peacefully and we can expect more de-

terioration and more violence because the people want to participate and they should have the right to participate politically as long as they accept the law and the constitution."

But in the midst of its increasingly violent battle against the groups, the Interior Ministry shows no sign of changing its hardline policy. "We cannot stop this struggle between us and the fundamentalist groups," says Gen. Baha Al Din. "This strong way of facing them will make a lot of people think very hard before joining such groups. As for those who are already working in the groups, probably when they see that a lot of their colleagues have been killed they will stop. If we stop now, we will have achieved nothing. We have had a lot of success. It is a policy we have to carry out not only for one or two months, but continuously and we have rearranged our forces to execute the policy throughout the country." — World News Link



At least 120 people have been killed in Egypt in the past year and the country has experienced its worst political violence since the

assassination of President Sadat in 1981 (WNL photo)

## Russian police learning how to be cops — American style

By Matthew Schofield  
Reuters

HUTCHINSON — At an abandoned cold war airbase in the rolling wheat fields of Kansas, five Russian police officers are learning the finer points of being cops — American style.

As a result of perestroika, they are studying at the University of Kansas Law Enforcement Training Centre near Hutchinson. They say the explosive growth of crime in economically ravaged Russia brought them half-way round the world to learn how to combat problems at home.

Until their graduation April 30, they are studying everything from investigative techniques to how to use firearms.

"Next year, we will increase our police force by 30 per cent perhaps," said Gennady Nadezhkin, a 33-year-old police captain in a suburb of St. Petersburg, Russia's second city.

"Since 1985, crime is increasing

in our area constantly," he said in a recent interview.

Russian experts say property crimes in that country have increased by as much as 250 per cent since 1985. All crimes are up an estimated 60 per cent, and the officers estimated property crime in one residential area of St. Petersburg with about 60,000 people was about 300 cases a month.

The other police officers from the St. Petersburg force attending the course are Captain Vladimir Zhurinov, Major Sergei Fedorov, Lieutenant-Major Svetlana Golubeva and Lieutenant-Major Elena Lavunenko. They are the first police officers from the former Soviet Union to study criminology in the U.S. Midwest, although other groups have studied on the U.S. east coast.

As part of their American training they have observed how police work in a number of small and large Kansas towns, with Maj. Fedorov recently helping one officer investigate an armed

robbery in the city of Topeka.

"They work hard, even studying Kansas statutes they'll never again need to know," said Larry Welch, director of the training centre.

"They've got the same concerns as any Kansas police officer — a lack of manpower and equipment and a need for new laws to effectively fight crime," Mr. Welch said. "What we've learned here is that police work is universal."

Violent crime, once a statistical rarity in what was the Soviet Union, has become more common with a sharp increase of firearms available on the black market.

"It's very fair to say there is a major crime wave under way in Russia," said Gabriel Schoenfeld, a senior fellow in Russian studies with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"The law enforcement system has broken down," Mr. Schoenfeld said. "The problems go much

deeper than better training, but the Kansas exchange might help."

However, the Russian police officers do not characterise the situation in their homeland as bleakly. Guns are still rare among the public, there is not the drug problem that the U.S. has, and a police officer still decides before he or she goes on assignment whether or not to take firearms along, they said.

Capt. Zhurinov said the primary difference between Russian training and the training he has been getting in the U.S. is money. Although class size and basic police studies are the same, there is also a greater emphasis in the U.S. on how to use police cars, which are not as plentiful back home, he said.

"I want to learn everything I can," Maj. Fedorov said. "Maybe it's too early to know what all the benefits of this visit will be, but people in my country are very tired of high prices, instability and crime."



Learning the finer points

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## EC monetary committee urges 'warning lights' on ERM turmoil

LONDON (R) — A system of "warning lights" should be set up to alert European Community (EC) nations to currency strains and prevent a rerun of last September's turmoil in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM), top monetary officials say.

A confidential report by the EC's monetary committee, to be discussed by finance ministers at informal talks in Denmark Sunday, says the ERM needs to change its internal rules and "break new ground" after a bout of speculative attacks.

One potentially explosive recommendation would allow any country — not just the nation whose currency is under fire — to seek a devaluation of currencies thought to be out of line.

"One of the lessons to be drawn from the recent turmoil is

that the European Monetary System should adapt its internal rules at this point and break new ground," the report says. "Its procedures should lead to action, when necessary, well in advance of the development of expectations of change on the markets."

The report of the secretive committee, made up of top finance ministers and central bank officials, was drawn up after heavy speculative pressure forced Britain and Italy to withdraw their currencies from the EC currency grid in September.

The strains have continued, with the latest casualties Spain and Portugal, whose currencies were devalued last Tuesday.

Denmark's vote Tuesday in favour of the Maastricht treaty on economic and political union has eased pressure on the ERM but

finance ministers will use the report as the basis for talks on how to prevent new strains breaking out.

The document, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, says the EC must monitor the ERM more closely and "continuously ask itself whether and to what extent the parity grid is sustainable and corresponds to the underlying economic situation."

It suggests a confidential set of economic indicators be drawn up. These could be thought of as warning lights and would mainly include measures of competitiveness to detect in advance whether EC exchange rates were moving out of line.

The committee also recommends a key change in the way the ERM has functioned since it was set up on the initiative of

France and Germany as a "zone of monetary stability" in 1979.

Since then, it has always been the country whose currency is under attack which has called for a "realignment" or change in its pre-set value against other member currencies.

If ministers agree, countries with strong currencies could take the initiative if they thought a weak-currency country was refusing to devalue and destabilising the whole system.

The report fires a warning shot at Britain and Italy should they want to rejoin — in Britain's case a remote chance after repeated statements by Prime Minister John Major against this.

It says nations whose currencies are floating outside the ERM can only rejoin by "mutual agreement."

## Boom in China will change Asia, says think tank

LONDON (R) — The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) has said that China's economic boom was transforming the future of east Asia and could also change the country's politics and frontiers.

Noting that China's free-market reforms had brought a remarkable 12 per cent growth last year, the IISS, one of the world's top think tanks, said the communist giant might come close to being the world's largest economy by the year 2010.

"And yet," the IISS said in its annual review of world affairs, "the flourishing is bringing with it fundamental changes in China's economy, political system and perhaps even its frontiers."

"It is also reshaping the way east Asians are beginning to look at their future... even the Japanese are adjusting to it," said the review, "Strategic Survey 1992-1993."

China might not be recognisable as a centre-driven, single state by early in the next century," it said.

Japan, by contrast, was the scene of political stagnation, the IISS said. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa "has proved a disappointment in navigating through some very choppy waters," the survey said.

"He has appeared half-hearted over political reform, disengaged from the economy's problems and hesitant in dealing with a major corruption scandal. The Japanese (also) still seem confounded by the rapid pace of change in international affairs and unable to establish new approaches to foreign and defence policy," it added.

But the IISS predicted that Japanese voters' distaste for widespread change could continue to keep reform to a minimum.

Turning to North and South Korea, the IISS said hopes for an end to the stalemate between the two countries had evaporated last year, and "without a basic change in the troglodyte North Korean regime...the Korean Peninsula looks set for a further period of insecurity."

The IISS said Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping had surged forward with economic reform to avoid the collapse of Communist Party control but some regions had gone ahead of others.

This was causing insecurity in Peking, despite the country's economic boom and the decline of the military threat from Russia, it said.

"Rapid growth might require so much regional diversity that

## ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iran to export gas to Georgia

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has agreed to export five million cubic metres of natural gas per day to the former Soviet republic of Georgia, Iran's IRNA news agency has said. It said the deal was part of an agreement reached by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Agha in Tbilisi under which Iran would also help Georgia in oil exploration and petrochemical projects. The report, monitored in Nicosia, which is torn by civil war and suffers from an acute energy shortage, would pay for it.

### UAE duty free shops boost trade, revenues

ABU DHABI (R) — Duty free shops at the United Arab Emirates (UAE) main airports recorded their highest revenues last year by luring passengers with raffles offering cash, gold and luxury cars, managers said. Dubai International Airport, the UAE's largest airport with 5.4 million passengers, boosted revenues at its duty free shop by 35 per cent to \$135 million in 1992, public relations manager Anita Mehra said. Annual revenues have risen six-fold since the shop, where travellers can buy tax-free luxury goods, opened in 1983. "A lot of the passengers were attracted by the car raffle," she said. Mehra said, "We've raffled 187 cars since it was set up." Abu Dhabi airport's duty free revenues rose to 161 million dirhams (\$43.8 million) in 1992 from 143 million dirhams (\$36.9 million) in 1991. Passenger traffic rose to 2.4 million. Annual revenues stood at \$8.5 million in 1984, its first year of operations. Marketing manager Niveen Ibrahim said this year they were spending three million dirhams (\$817,000) to expand the shop.

### Taiwan said to slow infrastructure spending

TAIPEI (R) — The Taiwan government, facing a financial squeeze, will cut spending on its huge infrastructure programme next year and delay the completion of some projects, a newspaper has said. A cabinet committee has decided to slash spending under the island's six-year development plan to 591 billion dollars (\$22.8 billion) in the fiscal year to June 1994 from 758 billion dollars (\$29.3 billion) originally planned, the mass-circulation China Times said. Government spending on the plan is expected to total 620 billion Taiwan dollars (\$27.9 billion) in the current fiscal year, the newspaper quoted unnamed officials as saying. It said the government now planned to delay completion of the six-year plan, which originally envisaged spending by the public and private sectors of about \$300 billion between 1991 and 1997, to the year 2000. The plan includes construction of roads, ports, power plants and other facilities to upgrade Taiwan's infrastructure and propel it into the ranks of developed economies. But the government, warning that state finances were under severe pressure after several years of record budget deficits, announced in March that it would consider slowing the six-year plan. A formal policy announcement is expected around July.

## IMF, World Bank lend Pakistan \$1.25b

ISLAMABAD (R) — The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed new loans of \$1.25 billion Saturday to save Pakistan from what the interim finance minister called the disastrous consequences of his predecessors' profligacy.

"This understanding is the best solution out of the impasse in Pakistan," caretaker Finance Minister Farooq Leghari told a news conference.

The IMF has agreed to provide soft loans of about \$1.0 billion to Pakistan under its enhanced structural facility programme (ESAF). IMF team leader Mohammad Ali Erian told reporters at the end of a two-week visit.

The money would be disbursed over three years at what Mr. Ali Erian called concessionary rates of 0.5 per cent over 10 years with the first instalment expected to be given to Pakistan in October.

The loan was agreed on the basis of commitment expressed by Pakistan's caretaker government to continue structural reforms introduced by sacked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to

liberalise the economy, Mr. Ali Erian said.

Another condition was the imposition of tighter fiscal discipline, Mr. Ali Erian said.

Mr. Ali Erian and Mr. Leghari refused to say whether the two sides had agreed on a target for cutting Pakistan's yawning fiscal deficit.

Finance ministry officials have said the budget deficit could hit 7.4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in fiscal 1992/93 (July/June) compared with a forecast 5.3 per cent.

The deficit made up 6.1 per cent of GDP in 1991/92, down from 8.8 per cent the previous year but well short of the 4.8 per cent target set by the IMF as part of conditions for aid.

It will be Pakistan's first loan from the IMF under the ESAF since the previous structural adjustment facility (SAF) finished last December.

The three-year \$966 million SAF loan ran into difficulties when payments were suspended for a year in 1990 after Pakistan failed to bring down its fiscal

deficit to 4.8 per cent of GDP.

The World Bank has agreed to give Pakistan \$250 million under the public sector adjustment loan in the form of balance of payments support.

Mr. Leghari said he found as economy in crisis when he took over as finance minister on April 18 after President Ghulam Ishtiaq Khan sacked Mr. Sharif's 30-month-old government on charges of nepotism, economic mismanagement and handing out business favours to friends.

"There had been a profligacy in spending and a lack of resource mobilisation for several years," Mr. Leghari said.

Public domestic debt rose to 600 billion rupees (\$23 billion) this year from 381 billion (\$14 billion) in 1989/90.

Foreign debt has grown by 3.5 billion in the past two years to total nearly \$18.5 billion at the end of 1992/93 with debt servicing at \$1.5 billion this year, he said.

He warned that debt servicing could become the largest single expenditure unless swift action was taken.

Mr. Leghari declined to give details of the conditions of the loans or of policies to be implemented, saying only that taxation would be a big component of the budget due on June 10.

The budget would be operational for four months, giving time to the next government, which is to be elected in polls on July 14, to decide which policies it would adopt.

Mr. Leghari said the agreement foresaw economic growth of 7.5 per cent. "This will require revenue measures and improving the structure and quality of tax."

"We will exercise prudence in expenditure in areas where there was profligacy in the past," he said.

Negative growth of 3.0 per cent in the vital agriculture sector has more than halved the economic growth rate to three per cent in 1992/93. Mr. Leghari said last week. Pakistan had forecast growth at 6.3 per cent for this year.

A final decision on the ESAF disbursement had previously been expected after the budget was announced.

## China hopes to join top 10 trading nations

PEKING (AP) — The trade minister said China hopes to increase its foreign trade to \$200 billion by 1995 and enter the ranks of the world's top 10 trading countries, an official newspaper has said.

The China Daily quoted Wu Yi, minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation, as saying China will speed passage of its first foreign trade law and improve and diversify exports in an effort to meet the goal. Mr. Wu said China also will pursue border trade with newly emerging markets in the former Soviet republics and South East Asia. China's border trade more than doubled last year. China was the world's eleventh largest trader in 1992 with a trade volume of \$165.63 billion, ahead of Taiwan, Singapore, and South Korea but behind Hong Kong, according to a recent Xinhua news agency report.

## European car sales forecasts spark crisis worries

LONDON (R) — General Motors (G.M.) Europe, Friday cut its forecast for European car sales in 1993 and industry analysts said new projections for the recession-hit market were the worst for 25 years.

A spokeswoman for Vauxhall Motors in Britain, which together with Germany's Opel comprises G.M. Europe, said the company expects total industry sales in 1993 to fall by 14.3 per cent to 11.53 million from 13.45 million in 1992. The forecast covers sales of all cars in 17 European countries.

"This is a crisis," said Keith Hayes, European motor industry analyst at Merrill Lynch.

But G.M. Europe, up to now the most profitable car maker in Europe, has cut its forecast less savagely than rivals Ford Motor Co. and Germany's Volkswagen

A.G. (V.W.).

On Thursday, Ford Motor Co.'s European operation forecast total 1993 sales of 10.92 million cars, down 18.8 per cent from 1992. And Ford told analysts in the United States it was increasingly unlikely to make a profit in Europe this year.

V.W., which made a group loss of 1.25 billion marks (\$770 million) in the first quarter, took the most pessimistic view. It expects total sales to fall by more than 20 per cent and it saw the recession continuing into 1994.

"With those new estimates it's difficult to see anybody making a profit," said John Lawson, motor industry analyst at independent forecasters DRIM/Graw Hill.

"Ford, Fiat and Volkswagen are already likely to make a loss but with a fall of 20 per cent it's difficult to envisage even the

French and G.M. (Europe) reaching break-even," he said.

"The first quarter was very bad and if that situation persists car makers will have to idle factories for far longer than they have envisaged," Mr. Lawson said.

However, he said he was sticking to his forecast of a fall in sales of more than 10 per cent this year to 12 million cars.

Recession across Europe and rising unemployment have prompted companies to rethink investment plans but not all major car firms plan to reduce output this year.

The Vauxhall spokeswoman said G.M. had no plans to cut output and expected to increase its market share despite lower demand.

A Ford spokesman said it had no plans to reduce production in Britain but declined to comment

on operations elsewhere.

Ford is cutting 10,000 of its 93,000 jobs in Europe this year and analysts have said total European car job losses could total 200,000 in the next few years.

V.W. trimmed production by 21 per cent in the first quarter. Analysts said there might be a hidden political agenda behind car firms' pessimistic public utterances. The European car industry association ACEA is putting pressure on the European Commission to renegotiate an export deal with Japan.

Japan's motor vehicle exports declined for the first time in three years in the year to March, reflecting the global recession and an increase in overseas production.

The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said exports fell 2.9 per cent from the previous

year to 5.66 million units, with steep declines in exports to North America and Europe outweighing a surge in exports to Asia.

The outcome foreshadowed even bleaker expectations for the current year, analysts said, blaming the appreciation of the yen, persistent economic doldrums in Europe and stiffer competition.

"South East Asia will continue to buy more Japanese cars, but that is not enough to offset expected falls in the United States and Europe," said Takashi Kawamura, an analyst with New Japan Securities Co. Ltd.

Exports to Asia shot up 24.5 per cent to 693,104 units during the year, led by sales to China that more than doubled to 188,617 units. Exports were also brisk to the Middle East, Latin America and Oceania.

In contrast, exports to the United States plunged 14.1 per cent to 1.74 million units while those to Europe fell 7.2 per cent to 1.61 million units.

Exports of cars alone decreased 2.3 per cent to 4.41 million units, the first drop in three years, while truck exports slumped 7.4 per cent to 1.16 million units, the seventh consecutive decline. But bus exports jumped 41.1 per cent to 81,747 units, the association said.

By value, exports soared 9.3 per cent to a record \$82.1 billion as prices were inflated by a stronger yen.

In March alone, however, there were strong signs of a recovery. Exports grew 6.1 per cent to 562,791 units over February. Car exports advanced 7.1 per cent to 443,823 units.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 23, 1993  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Combine your best judgement with your most intuitive and prophetic insight today so that you will be better able to gain the right philosophy of life proving to others that you are a remarkable individual.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) During the day you can consider where you want to make some changes without yet putting them in effect. Tonight brings a need to consider your public image.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Avoid dealing directly with any material or mundane problems that face you today and sidestep the urge to go to new places to attain ideas tonight.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You want to reach a new accord with an ally but aspects indicate its not the right time so instead carry through with what you've agreed to do.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You want to be of service to others but don't expect thanks today if you do. While tonight sidestep a partner who is eager to cut you down to size.

**LEO:** (July 22 August 21) You can have a pleasant time during the day if you stick to simple and inexpensive pleasures while tonight work is a bore so enjoy music, TV, radio.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Matters at home require careful consideration and cautious

while tonight bring a need to use self-control at entertainment.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Using this daytime to extend your knowledge can be disappointing but do your best anyway and later you are in a better position to handle some perplexities.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Try to steer clear from some arguments over finances in the daytime while in the evening it not advisable to bring up mood points with a close companion.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You feel frustrated in doing and getting the things you want so postpone them until a better time and in the evening be equally careful in spending money.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Busy yourself getting rid of anything private that stands in the way of your progress in the morning. Tonight consider how best to attain cherished longings.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You find persons you would like to see are busy with their own concerns so handle the evening do something to cheer up your attachment.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You would be wise to attend to personal and not worldly interests in the morning and to do eagerly with friends who have axes they want you to grind.

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Harris

I'M AN OPTIMIST. I THINK THE GLASS IS HALF FULL!

I'M A PESSIMIST. I THINK THE GLASS IS HALF EMPTY!

I'M A HOUSEWIFE. I THINK THE GLASS IS HALF DIRTY!

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WROCE

PUJEL

BLITAR

MAINEA

WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL THIS BARBER'S ESTABLISHMENT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumble: IMBUE CHOKE TANGLE DOUBLY

Answer: Something besides the tide which the moon affects—THE TIED

**Peanuts**

I SEE IT'S RAINING AGAIN, MA'AM. MY DOG IS GOING TO GET WET...

YES, MA'AM. HE HAS A DOGHOUSE, BUT HE CAN'T GO IN IT BECAUSE HE HAS CLAUSTROPHOBIA...

I COULD GO IN THERE... I KNOW I COULD... ALL I'D HAVE TO DO IS DO IT... I COULD JUST DO IT...

I THINK I'M GETTING WET...

**Andy Capp**

IT'S GOING TO BE QUITE A MATCH, ALAN. MEBBE YOU SHOULD COME ALONG...

THE VISITORS HAVE SOME OLD SCORES TO SETTLE WITH US...

—HE'S GREAT AT FOOTBALL—HE'S GOT SIX KIDS...

**Mutt'n'Jeff**

I CAN'T FIND A PLACE TO LIVE ANYWHERE!

I HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU TO LIVE! I'LL SELL IT TO YOU FOR FIFTY BUCKS!

I'LL TAKE IT, MUTT! NO MATTER HOW BAD! HOW BAD! YOU'RE A REAL PAL!

JUST SIGN THE PAPERS AND SLIP ME FIFTY BUCKS!

THIS IS IT, JEFF! IT'S ALL YOURS! BUT THERE'S NO HOUSE ON IT! NOTHING BUT THIS OLD BOARD!

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR FIFTY BUCKS? YOU GOT A FOOT UNDER YOUR FEET AIN'T CHA?

**THE Daily Crossword** by Harry Bryan

ACROSS

1 Out-of-date

8 FDR's pet

10 Ethnic group

14 Troubles

15 Algerian city

16 Norwegian saint

17 Fenders

18 Sarcasms

19 Weaken by subversion

20 Small amounts

21 Black custody

22 Yeast, for one

23 Make up one's mind

25 Hemingway or Borgnine

26 Take for granted

28 Pouch

29 Burmese gibbon

30 TV pioneer

31 Milton

32 Bottle parts

37 Doczy

39 Mated out

41 Faucet problem

42 More extensive

44 Performers

45 Vane letters

47 Film

48 Servitude class

51 Guess reliably

52 Grass house

55 Talka idly

56 Turncoat

57 Thailand, once

60 Memory ability

62 Make up for

63 Roman way

64 Coup d'

65 Five prefix

66 Hardy heroine

67 Decomposes

68 Ford's son

DOWN

1 Gone by

2 Judicial proceedings

3 Trembled convulsively

4 Sight and smell

5 McMahon and

6 Bank

7 Gaffer's Palmer

8 Young man

9 Anoints, old style

10 Courtier

11 In existence

12 Walking aids

13 Main or blessed end

19 Played a real answ

21 Enowed

24 New ion

26 Firm implement

27 Indian precepts

31 —Isa (Chn philosopher)

32 Circus performers

34 Fashion designs

35 Face card

36 Gra

38 Storytellers

40 Pay the tab

43 Mature

45 The sun

46 Annoy

50 Set on eggs

51 Diagonal spar

52 Mediterranean island

53 Chaperone

54 European

58 Chip in

59 Rupture

61 Japanese admiral

62 Myne



## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CREDIT ADVISORY - SUBSIDIZED  
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 22/05/1993

| COMPANY NAME                       | TRADED VOLUME | PRICE   | OPENING PRICE | CLOSING PRICE |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------------|
| ABU DHABI (AGENCIES)               | 132,999       | 151,000 | 152,000       | 152,000       |
| JORDAN NATIONAL BANK               | 765,660       | 5,090   | 5,850         | 5,850         |
| UNION BANK                         | 53,392        | 29,000  | 27,500        | 29,000        |
| BANK OF JORDAN                     | 43,355        | 3,930   | 4,130         | 4,130         |
| INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT BANK         | 39,887        | 2,200   | 2,200         | 2,150         |
| THE FARMING BANK                   | 60,043        | 3,980   | 4,050         | 4,050         |
| JORDAN SURETY BANK                 | 33,020        | 4,060   | 4,060         | 4,050         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 29,948        | 2,670   | 2,680         | 2,730         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 37,223        | 2,750   | 2,750         | 2,800         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 2,875         | 4,350   | 4,350         | 4,350         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 2,875         | 4,350   | 4,350         | 4,350         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 17,414        | 3,370   | 3,370         | 3,310         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 793,662       | 4,080   | 4,080         | 4,250         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 206,053       | 2,670   | 2,680         | 2,730         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 8,118         | 2,510   | 2,510         | 2,560         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 4,350         | 2,750   | 2,750         | 2,700         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 670           | 3,350   | 3,380         | 3,380         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 48,479        | 1,920   | 1,980         | 1,980         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 1,400         | 2,900   | 2,920         | 2,920         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 47,406        | 1,950   | 1,980         | 1,980         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 9,770         | 1,230   | 1,230         | 1,200         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 22,010        | 9,900   | 10,000        | 10,000        |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 15,000        | 8,870   | 9,000         | 9,000         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 10,100        | 2,220   | 2,200         | 2,200         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 12,130        | 9,820   | 9,840         | 9,840         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 170,312       | 4,180   | 4,180         | 4,150         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 9,466         | 1,710   | 1,750         | 1,750         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 56,756        | 0,920   | 0,920         | 0,910         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 13,046        | 1,240   | 1,240         | 1,230         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 728           | 1,520   | 1,630         | 1,630         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 5,777         | 1,210   | 1,210         | 1,230         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 488,731       | 2,260   | 2,260         | 2,120         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 18,202        | 10,430  | 10,500        | 10,440        |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 1,630         | 7,800   | 8,000         | 7,900         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 48,973        | 10,100  | 10,500        | 10,500        |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 271,794       | 7,400   | 7,500         | 7,700         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 48,973        | 10,100  | 10,500        | 10,500        |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 941,321       | 7,120   | 7,130         | 7,180         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 424,306       | 7,210   | 7,210         | 7,130         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 27,207        | 2,130   | 2,400         | 2,400         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 3,610         | 3,030   | 3,010         | 3,010         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 8,913         | 22,250  | 22,500        | 22,250        |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 92,136        | 2,240   | 2,240         | 2,240         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 5,260         | 3,350   | 3,500         | 3,520         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 6,097         | 0,660   | 0,670         | 0,670         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 878,601       | 3,240   | 3,240         | 3,240         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 42,283        | 3,390   | 3,430         | 3,460         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 424,306       | 7,210   | 7,210         | 7,130         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 29,889        | 3,390   | 3,400         | 3,440         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 3,572         | 0,510   | 0,500         | 0,490         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 94,051        | 5,840   | 5,840         | 5,840         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 210,682       | 4,490   | 4,490         | 4,490         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 47,406        | 2,900   | 2,900         | 2,900         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 510,549       | 9,650   | 9,650         | 9,920         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 29,785        | 1,270   | 1,280         | 1,230         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 11,085        | 4,250   | 4,400         | 4,480         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 1,334,276     | 10,400  | 9,930         | 10,820        |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 799,296       | 6,610   | 7,000         | 6,960         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 78,631        | 4,250   | 4,250         | 4,200         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 19,611        | 6,000   | 6,000         | 6,000         |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 458,542       | 5,800   | 5,800         | 5,640         |
| ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK          | 47,900        | 1,800   | 1,800         | 1,800         |

## Saudi Arabia reports banking, industrial growth

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia has reported strong growth in its banking and industrial sectors in what it said was a return of confidence in the economy following the Gulf war.

In its annual report, the Saudi Arabia Monetary Agency (SAMA) said deposits with the kingdom's 12 commercial banks had steadily increased since the end of the war, which triggered a capital flight from the region.

After a loss of 3.6 billion riyals (\$960 million) just after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, deposits jumped by 19.2 per cent to 171.2 billion riyals (\$45.6 billion) at the end of 1991, and by 3.6 per cent to 177.4 riyals (\$47.3 billion) at the end of 1992.

The deposits continued to in-

crease to reach 186.8 billion riyals (\$49.8 billion) at the end of March, a rise of 5.3 per cent.

This is due to the return of confidence in the Saudi economy in general in the wake of the Gulf crisis," the report noted.

Most Gulf states reported a sharp decline in deposits in the first two months after the Kuwait invasion, which sparked a panic rush for withdrawals and transfer of money outside the region.

According to a report by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund, around \$23 billion in government and private funds were moved out of the Gulf in 1990, mostly from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

A post-war business upturn in

the region also enabled Saudi banks to make record profits, which stood at \$978 billion in 1992 compared with \$565 million in 1991, an increase of 73 per cent.

SAMA said foreign assets declined by 12.5 billion riyals (\$3.3 billion) to 106.4 billion riyals (\$28.3 billion) in 1992.

But at the end of March they recovered to 116.4 billion riyals (\$31 billion), accounting for around 38.7 per cent of total assets.

It also reports growth in the capital and reserves of Saudi banks, pushing up shareholders' equity by 5.7 billion riyals (\$1.52 billion) to 24.5 billion riyals (\$6.53 billion) in 1992, and to 26.6 billion riyals (\$7.09 bil-

lion) at the end of March.

Loans and grants to the private sector also surged by 18.4 per cent to 87.2 billion riyals (\$23.2 billion) in 1992, and by 7.6 per cent to 93.8 billion riyals (\$25 billion) at the end of March.

In the industrial sector, the focus of a government drive to lessen reliance on oil, real growth stood at nine per cent in 1991 and 76 new industrial units were set up with a capital of 1.6 billion riyals (\$420 million).

This brought the total industrial units to 1,886 with investment of 114.8 billion riyals (\$30.6 billion), providing 156,000 jobs.

The industrial sector is poised for more growth as the kingdom's giant, the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Company, has

embarked on major expansion projects.

The company now produces around 13 million tonnes a year of petrochemicals and other petroleum products, and the expansion projects, costing \$8 billion, will push output to 30 million tonnes by 1995.

The report said that Saudi gross national product (GNP) grew by an average of more than 10 per cent during the two years of the Gulf crisis and would grow more than five per cent in both 1992 and 1993.

The report said GNP grew 10.8 per cent in 1990 and 9.8 per cent in 1991.

The desert kingdom spent a total of 476.8 billion riyals (\$127 billion) in 1990 and 1991 compared to earnings of 316.6 billion (\$84.4 billion) during the same period, the report said.

In line with the 1993 budget announced in January, SAMA forecast a deficit of 27.8 billion riyals (\$7.4 billion) this year, to be financed through government borrowing.

Almost a third of the 52.5 billion the government plans to spend in 1993 has been allocated to defence and security.

Oil exports increased by 8.9 per cent in 1991 to 163.3 billion riyals (\$43.5 billion). Non-oil exports earned Riyadh 15.3 billion riyals (\$4.1 billion) in the same year.

Saudi Arabia's trade surplus dropped five per cent in 1991 to 81.3 billion riyals (\$21.7 billion). Imports continued to rise in the past three years, reaching an estimated 122.7 billion riyals (\$32.7 billion) in 1992.

The report said the cost of living fell 0.4 per cent last year when Riyadh cut prices for basic goods, mainly oil products for domestic consumption. It said that despite a rise of 4.2 per cent in the cost of living in 1991 Saudi Arabia still enjoyed one of the world's lowest inflation rates.

The report said latest census figures showed that Saudi Arabia's population had doubled in the past 20 years to reach 17 million.

## Turks plan to invest \$830m in Turkmenistan

ANKARA (R) — Turkish businessmen, planning investments of over \$800 million in Turkmenistan, have said the republic offered vast opportunities to foreign investors.

"Turkmenistan is the most promising republic in Central Asia," Cengiz Demirtas, marketing manager at Ortas, a trading company, told Reuters. "Its population is only four million, but it can earn at least \$5 billion from natural gas sales alone. So its per capita income may jump sharply in the future."

Turkmenistan's Deputy President Nazir Suyunov, quoted by Anatolian News Agency, said foreign investors could transfer their profits freely out of the country.

"Investments with over 30 per cent of foreign capital involvement are exempted from taxes for three years," he said.

Anatolian said 12 Turkish firms planned to invest \$830 million in Turkmenistan, rich in natural gas, oil, cotton and livestock. The investments include turn-key projects in tourism, textiles and agricultural and food industries.

"Turkmenistan can now process only three per cent of its (annual) cotton output of 1.4 million tonnes. It needs to exploit its underground resources," Namik Kemal Ekinici, deputy president of Ekinici Holding, said.

Ekinici Holding is negotiating with Turkmenistan to build a hotel, two flour factories, a pasta plant and a baby food factory, as well as three coldstores and a cultural centre.

"Turkmenistan has everything but no processing plants. It needs to improve its infrastructure. In the short-run lively business

opportunities may emerge for foreigners, particularly in the telecommunications field," Mr. Demirtas said.

The cash-poor republic, he added, currently relied on barter as its main trade tool.

Mr. Ekinici said Argentine, Italian, Japanese and U.S. firms were studying investment projects in banking, oil, glass, sugar, textiles and construction.

Turkish republic officials say the former Soviet republic has estimated natural gas reserves of 8.1 trillion cubic metres and oil reserves of 700 million tonnes.

Turkmenistan, now in the rubble zone, said last year it planned to introduce its own currency unit.

Turkey and Turkmenistan, sharing ethnic and cultural ties, signed a provisional agreement last year to build a natural gas pipeline from Turkmenistan

across Turkey to Europe.

Turkey's Eximbank gave Turkmenistan credits worth \$75 million in 1992 to help finance imports of Turkish goods.

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## Financial Markets

In co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency               | New York Close Date: 20/5/93 | New York Close Date: 21/5/93 |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sterling Pound         | 1.5566                       | 1.5430                       |
| Deutsche Mark          | 1.6155                       | 1.6255                       |
| Swiss Franc            | 1.4660                       | 1.4681                       |
| French Franc           | 5.4440                       | 5.4730                       |
| Japanese Yen           | 110.61                       | 110.30                       |
| European Currency Unit | 1.2085**                     | 1.2050                       |

\* USD Per STG  
\*\* European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 21/5/1993

| Currency               | 1 MTH | 3 MTH | 6 MTH | 12 MTH |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar            | 3.00  | 3.13  | 3.22  | 3.62   |
| Sterling Pound         | 5.94  | 5.94  | 5.98  | 6.09   |
| Deutsche Mark          | 7.68  | 7.37  | 7.00  | 6.56   |
| Swiss Franc            | 5.02  | 5.00  | 4.81  | 4.56   |
| French Franc           | 7.73  | 7.35  | 7.00  | 6.57   |
| Japanese Yen           | 3.25  | 3.25  | 3.31  | 3.37   |
| European Currency Unit | 7.93  | 7.50  | 7.31  | 7.00   |

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 21/5/1993

| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Oz | Metal  | USD/Oz | JD/Oz |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Gold  | 378.35 | 7.10  | Silver | 4.67   | .010  |

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 22/5/1993

| Currency       | Bid     | Offer   |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar    | 0.6860  | 0.6880  |
| Sterling Pound | 1.0567  | 1.0620  |
| Deutsche Mark  | 0.4209  | 0.4230  |
| Swiss Franc    | 0.4662  | 0.4685  |
| French Franc   | 0.1252  | 0.1258  |
| Japanese Yen   | 0.6205  | 0.6236  |
| Dutch Guilder  | 0.3764  | 0.3783  |
| Swedish Krona  | 0.0941  | 0.0946  |
| Italian Lira   | 0.0463  | 0.0465  |
| Belgian Franc  | 0.02053 | 0.02063 |

\* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 22/5/1993

| Currency       | Bid     | Offer   |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.7970  | 1.8300  |
| Lebanese Lira  | 0.03820 | 0.04047 |
| Saudi Riyal    | 0.1826  | 0.1838  |
| Kuwaiti Dinar  | 2.2300  | 2.2800  |
| Qatari Riyal   | 0.1858  | 0.1870  |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.1950  | 0.2100  |
| Omani Riyal    | 1.7450  | 1.7850  |
| UAE Dirham     | 0.1858  | 0.1870  |
| Greek Drachma  | 0.3116  | 0.3418  |
| Cypriot Pound  | 1.4130  | 1.4430  |

\* Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

| Index            | 12/5/1993 Close | 19/5/1993 Close |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| All-Share        | 203.62          | 206.24          |
| Banking Sector   | 144.33          | 147.09          |
| Insurance Sector | 211.05          | 211.14          |
| Industry Sector  | 285.67          | 286.53          |
| Services Sector  | 273.61          | 270.35          |

\* December 31, 1990 = 100

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## 3 killed in Sarajevo shelling

SARAJEVO (R) — At least three people were killed and 45 wounded in renewed shelling of Sarajevo Saturday as Washington and its partners tried to patch up their rift over how to end the war in Bosnia.

A deputy prime minister in the Muslim-led government, Zlatko Lagumdžija, was among those injured in what U.N. officials said was the worst barrage of the Serb-besieged Bosnian capital since the warring sides signed a truce on May 8.

Doctors at the French hospital where Lagumdžija was taken said he was in satisfactory condition after stomach surgery.

The casualty figures were reported by two main hospitals in Sarajevo. The latest fighting followed shelling Friday in which four people were killed and more than 30, many of them children, were injured.

The city's television station and a first aid post were hit but there were no reports of casualties in either incident. Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said several civilians had also been killed or wounded in the past 24 hours in a Serb artillery assault on

the northeastern town of Maglaj.

A spokesman for the U.S. Protection Force could not confirm reports of clashes around Maglaj, where the Bosnian Serb army has accused Muslim forces of launching attacks.

But he confirmed there had been fighting Friday around Brčko, another northern town which controls a key Serb supply route.

Battles have raged on in Bosnia, albeit at a lower intensity, as the United States, Russia and Europe try to forge a common strategy to end the 14-month conflict following Bosnian Serb rejection of the current U.N.-backed peace plan.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has backed away from his plan to arm the Muslims and bomb the Serbs after resistance from Russia and Europe.

He said Friday he was sceptical that what was now being proposed could end the conflict, but officials said the United States might be ready to live, at least temporarily, with war gains by the Serbs, now in control of 70 per cent of Bosnia.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher planned more talks with America's allies Saturday amid reports that progress was being made.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Christopher's discussions with the foreign ministers of France, Bri-

tain, Russia and Spain were likely to be held jointly. The group could announce afterwards a common set of principles on solving the Bosnian crisis.

"Without being overly optimistic on such a complex issue, I think that the proposals which have been made by the various parties can constitute a joint plan and lead, I hope, to an agreement," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé said Friday.

Ideas under discussion include expansion of Muslim "safe areas," tightened sanctions, creation of a war crimes tribunal and deployment of monitors on Bosnia's border with Yugoslavia to ensure no arms flow to Bosnian Serbs.

But an expected U.N. resolution on the monitors appeared to have been scuppered in advance by Dobrica Cosic, president of the rump Yugoslav Federation of Serbia and Montenegro.

"They (U.N. monitors) do not solve the problem and they endanger our sovereignty and offend the dignity of our state," Mr. Cosic told Britain's Sky News Television in an interview.

Belgrade, previously blamed for fuelling the war, threw its weight behind the U.N.-backed peace plan earlier this month hoping the world would respond by lifting crippling economic sanctions against Serbia-dominated Yugoslavia.

When Bosnia's Serbs rejected the plan, Belgrade declared its

border with Bosnia closed except for food and medicines.

Mr. Cosic said the sanctions had put Yugoslavia in "a ghetto, a quarantine, a concentration camp" and made Serbia and Montenegro hostages to the civil war.

Good progress is being made on a "realistic and agreed way" to stop the fighting in Bosnia, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Friday.

"We are not there yet. There is some work still to be done. But compared to a week or so ago, those of us involved in these consultations are clearly moving together," he said after meeting with Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

"I think it's making good progress," he told reporters at the United Nations.

"The aim is to have a realistic and agreed way of containing the fighting, reducing the fighting, stopping the fighting, and then moving forward to a just and equitable peace."

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé, who saw Dr. Ghali earlier in the day, also said he hoped the United States and Europeans could reach a common policy on Bosnia.

"Without being overly optimistic on such a complex issue, I think that the proposals which have been made by the various parties can constitute a joint plan and lead, I hope, to an agreement," Mr. Juppé told reporters.

## Ukraine nuclear incident 'will bolster opposition'

KIEV (R) — A fire and explosion that killed a worker at a Ukrainian nuclear power station — Europe's largest — was no different from any industrial accident, officials said Saturday.

But they acknowledged the incident at the Zaporizha station would boost opposition to government plans to expand the nuclear industry's capacity seven years after the Chernobyl disaster.

Ecologists in Ukraine renewed calls for the closure of the country's network of five nuclear power stations.

"There was no radiation leak and no substantial damage," Nur Ignatulin, first deputy director of Ukraine's Nuclear Power Directorate, said by telephone.

"From the standpoint of emotion, this will make it more difficult to persuade parliament to expand nuclear capacity. But in real terms, this sort of incident could have occurred at any thermal station."

Officials at the Zaporizha Station, 600 kilometres southeast of Kiev, said the explosion and fire were caused by sparks from a welder's torch igniting with leaking hydrogen from a cooling pipe.

A second workman remained in hospital with serious burns, but officials said he was probably out of danger.

The station's chief engineer, Taras Plokhiv, said by telephone that the fire was extinguished within 10 minutes outside the plant's fifth reactor, which was undergoing scheduled maintenance.

Officials contacted immediately after the accident said firefighters took two hours to bring the blaze under control.

Local radio and television broadcast news of the incident soon after it occurred. Officials reported a "minor panic" as residents of Zaporizha, a city of 900,000 some 50 kilometres away, jammed switchboards in search of more information.

But the Ukrinform News Agency and national radio gave a brief account only Saturday morning — probably more a reflection of the sluggish nature of the Ukrainian media than a deliberate attempt to withhold information.

The Zaporizha plant is the most modern of Ukraine's nuclear plants and provides 14 per cent of the country's electricity.

## Angolan peace talks collapse; war continues

ABIDJAN (R) — Marathon Angolan peace talks have collapsed after the government and UNITA rebels failed to agree on a draft peace package, raising fears that the civil war may intensify.

A final session of the six-week talks in Ivory Coast broke up without success Friday night and participants said negotiations were suspended indefinitely.

"I'm afraid the war is going to go on and probably to intensify," Margaret Anstee, the United Nations special envoy to Angola, told reporters in the Ivorian capital Abidjan.

"That means we have to intensify our efforts to try to get the two sides together again."

There was no indication if or when talks between UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) government would restart.

Ms. Anstee said the main stumbling-point was a key military clause in the draft peace agreement saying UNITA fighters would withdraw from areas they have occupied since fighting started again last year.

The MPLA said it was ready to sign the Abidjan peace package, drawn up by observers from Portugal, Russia and the United States, as it stood. UNITA refused.

The United Nations helped bring about a peace agreement in 1991 to end 16 years of civil war in the former Portuguese colony but UNITA took up arms again

after rejecting its defeat in U.N.-supervised elections last September.

Senior MPLA delegate General Higinio Carneiro said it was difficult to say if there would be a resumption of fighting. He said the government would continue to fight to defend its institutions and the Angolan people.

"The solution to Angola will not be war but the government is not going to fold its arms," he said.

UNITA's chief negotiator Jorge Valentim repeated the rebel movement's position that the U.N. should send peacekeeping troops to the southern African country.

"The situation is a complex one," he said. "For a ceasefire you need the United Nations, you need blue helmets."

Ms. Anstee was due to leave the Ivorian capital Abidjan for New York later Friday night, and government negotiators were planning to return to Luanda at the weekend. It was not clear when UNITA delegates would leave.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said early this week the Abidjan talks should end Friday. Diplomats said last week he was likely to advise the Security Council not to renew the U.N.'s observer role in Angola beyond the end of this month unless the talks made significant progress.

President Bill Clinton Wednesday announced U.S. recognition of the formerly-marxist MPLA, effectively ending 18 years of support for UNITA.

## 4 blacks, 2 whites killed in S. African township

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Six people were killed near Johannesburg Saturday when hostel dwellers opened fire on pro-ANC marchers and angry blacks attacked white security guards, killing two.

Reuters Television cameraman Leon Malherbe said police told him the whites were killed after being attacked by a 200-strong mob from phola Park squatter camp following the shootings of four blacks, one by police, in nearby Thokoza township.

A third white security guard was injured in the attack. Witnesses said the Thokoza violence erupted after pro-ANC marchers, many armed with spears and clubs, began trading insults with mainly Zulu-speaking workers at a hostel on the route through Thokoza.

Reuter photographer Judo Ngwenya said police shot dead an

ANC member armed with an AK-47 assault rifle after the hostilities.

"The man was trying to shoot at police," said Mr. Ngwenya, adding that police fired teargas and birdshot to try to disperse groups of angry youths gathering in Thokoza and the march, to air labour grievances, was breaking up.

He said peace monitors and police who were escorting the march lost control when marchers tried to force back a small group of Zulu-speaking protesters through the hostel gates.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus urged police to try to arrest those responsible for the killings.

"We call on everyone involved to try to prevent further bloodshed and urge the police to take immediate action to prevent further shooting from the hostel," Mr. Niehaus told Reuter.

## Chechnya moves to mend relations with Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's rebel Chechnya region, which declared independence 18 months ago, took a step towards normalising its severed relations with Moscow by restoring banking links, ITAR-TASS News Agency reported Saturday.

But it was not clear whether a new "Popular Trust" cabinet, formed this month by opponents of President Dzhokhar Dudayev amidst growing unrest in the oil-producing territory, could implement the move. Mr. Dudayev has kept his own cabinet and army.

When Mr. Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force general, took power in September 1991, he announced that the department of Russia's Central Bank which had paid pensions and salaries to Chechnya was henceforth to become the Chechen National Bank.

virtually stopped. The Popular Trust cabinet has now decided to restart the Russian Central Bank's branch in Chechnya, enabling Moscow to transfer cash again to the capital.

TASS said a local commercial bank would now do the job of accepting transfers.

In a separate development, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Friday that some former Soviet republics have expressed interest in becoming part of Russia, the Interfax News Agency reported.

The agency also quoted Vice Premier Alexander Shokhin as saying that one of those states was Tajikistan, which he said made inquiries about six months ago in the midst of its bloody civil war. The Central Asian nation is among the poorest former republics.

"Some republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) are beginning today to request the government of the Russian Federation to include them in its composition," Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

## Cuban epidemic appears to be falling off — doctors

HAVANA (R) — A mystery epidemic of a nervous disease that has swept across Cuba, affecting up to 26,000 people, appears to be decreasing slightly in its intensity, Cuban doctors said.

"The epidemic is showing a tendency to decrease as a whole...only a little, but decreasing," Dr. Raul Gomez Cabrera, director of the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital in Havana, told a news conference.

Dr. Gomez and other Cuban specialists at the conference said up to 26,000 people on the Communist-ruled Caribbean island were suffering from the disease, described as an "epidemic neuropathy."

The epidemic, which has hit Cuba while it is in the grips of a severe economic recession, attacks the body's nervous system, either disrupting the eyesight or affecting the sense of feeling or touch in limbs.

Dr. Gomez said Cuban experts were working with foreign specialists brought in by the World Health Organisation to try to track down the exact cause of the disease, which was still unknown.

"It's like a jigsaw puzzle. If you don't have all the pieces, you can't give an explanation or an overall theory," he said.

The Cuban and foreign specialists have been following three main lines of investigation. Firstly, that the disease is nutrition-related, secondly that it is caused by a toxin and thirdly that it may be the result of a virus.

"There's nothing definitive yet. There are many question marks," Dr. Gomez said.

A top U.S. virus expert and U.S. Nobel laureate in medicine, Dr. Carleton Gajdusek, who

spent two days in Cuba studying the epidemic, said Wednesday it was nothing like anything he had ever heard of or seen before.

Other foreign experts also expressed surprise at the number of cases, saying this was unprecedented in the medical history for this kind of disease.

"It's certainly a staggering scale," Dr. Alfredo Sadun, an eye neurologist working for the private U.S. eye care organisation Orbis, told reporters Thursday.

As a preventive measure, Cuba's health authorities have been distributing a Vitamin B supplement containing Vitamin B Complex to the island's entire population of nearly 11 million people. The nation was spending 17 million to import the extra Vitamins, officials said.

Dr. Gomez said the majority of those affected were responding well to intensive treatment with Vitamins and other therapies.

Within the overall tendency towards a decrease, cases featuring disruption to eyesight had fallen off, while there was an increase in the so-called peripheral form of the disease, which affects the limbs.

Foreign specialists have so far concurred with assertions by Cuban doctors that the epidemic cannot be exclusively blamed on nutrition levels in Cuba, which have fallen because of widespread shortages of Vitamin-rich foods like meat, eggs and wheat-flour products.

The Cuban experts said nutrition deficiencies could have a role in the development of the disease, but scientists were still actively looking at the possibility that a toxin or virus was behind it.



Michelle McLean, Miss Universe 1992 of Namibia (right) Friday puts the crown on Dayana Torres of Puerto Rico (left), the new Miss Universe 1993 (AFP photo)

## Miss Puerto Rico is crowned Miss Universe

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Dayana Torres, a student and part-time model from Puerto Rico, was chosen Friday night as Miss Universe 1993 out of a field of 79 beauty queens from around the world.

Dressed in a strapless white evening gown, Miss Torres, 18, was swarmed by fellow contestants as she was crowned by Miss Universe 1992, Michelle McLean of Namibia.

As the new Miss Universe, Miss Torres wins \$200,000 worth of prizes. She will spend a year making official appearances around the world.

Paula Betancourt, 21, of Medellin, Colombia, wore a slim, black strapless gown trimmed with sparkling silver rhinestones, as she was chosen the first runner-up. Milka Chulina, 19, of Maracaibo, Venezuela, in an orange gown with a hoop skirt and gold brocade, was made second runner-up in the glittering ceremony broadcast to 175 nations.

Miss Torres was chosen from the top three finalists after a final round of questioning by the judges. All were asked: "If you are chosen as Miss Universe, what do you want to accomplish?"

Miss Torres said she would focus on young people. "I believe that we should turn our energies to the children of the world, because that is where our future lies."

Miss Colombia said she would work to join the nations of the world together in an ecological campaign to make the earth safe for future generations. Miss Venezuela said she would strive to turn people's negative attitudes into positive ones.

The three were chosen from a field of 10 semifinalists. Kenya Moore of the United States, Australia's Voni Doloff, Lela Schuster of Brazil, Pavlina Barbakova of the Czech Republic, Tarja Samra of Finland, Namrata Shirodkar of India and Eugenia Santana of Spain were

the semifinalists eliminated. The mayor of Santurce and others from Miss Torres' hometown cheered the brown haired, blue eyed model, who is 5 feet 8½ inches (174 cms) tall.

Tickets, selling for as much as \$220, sold out for Friday's pageant at the 10,000-seat National Auditorium.

The 10 semifinalists were chosen Monday after the swimsuit and evening gown events. But the names kept secret until Friday's two-hour ceremony that was seen by more than 600 million viewers worldwide.

The competition for a crown, scholarship and prizes this year drew contestants as varied as an aspiring anchorwoman, psychologists and architects.

During four weeks of appearances, the contestants visited beach resorts in Oaxaca, Campeche and the colonial city of Zacatecas.

In the semifinals Monday night, Miss Venezuela received a \$1,000 check for being the contestant with "the world's most beautiful hair." Miss Ghana was chosen as Miss Congeniality and Miss Spain as Miss Photogenic.

Cecilia Bolocco of Chile, a popular announcer on Spanish-language television in the United States, and American TV announcer Dick Clark were hosts for the final event. Miss Bolocco was Miss Universe 1987.

Miss Universe 1989, Angela Visser of the Netherlands, was special commentator for the third year in a row.

Judges included Venezuelan singer and actress Maria Conchita Alonso, who earlier represented her country in the contest, and Miss Universe 1991 Lupita Jones of Mexico, whose new book "Word of The Queen, mince no words in its behind-the-scenes look at beauty contests."

This was the third time the Miss Universe contest has been held in Mexico. It was held in Acapulco in 1978 and in Cancun in 1989.

## Venezuela leader suspended; acting president takes over

CARACAS (R) — Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez was suspended from his post and ordered to stand trial on corruption charges, the first time a president has been impeached in nearly four decades of democratic rule.

Senators voted unanimously to ratify a Supreme Court ruling Thursday that there was enough evidence to try the unpopular Perez, survivor of coup attempts and political bids to oust him, on charges of embezzlement and misuse of public funds.

"This is a significant blow against corruption," Congress Vice President Felipe Montilla told senators.

Octavio Lepage, the president of Congress who has devoted half a century to politics with the ruling Democratic Action Party, was sworn in as acting president of this oil-exporting nation while lawmakers applauded.

"I am sure (the people) will accept me," Mr. Lepage said. "My name is a clean name. Nobody can point out any stain."

Mr. Lepage, a Perez leadership rival before 1988 elections, said he would honour all of Venezuela's foreign commitments and had not yet considered whether to change the cabinet.

The presidential sash, bearing

the blue, red and yellow colours of the nation's flag, was placed around Mr. Lepage as a military band broke into the national anthem. The sash had to be altered to fit Mr. Lepage's diminutive frame.

"The president of the republic is suspended of his duties," said the motion that senators voted to approve.

Outside the presidential palace, about 500 demonstrators shouting the name of Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez, leader of the February 1992 coup attempt, clashed with police and left when they were fired upon with tear-gas and plastic pellets.

Another 400 protesters gathered outside of Congress shouting "corrupt, corrupt" as legislators sought to leave the building.

The vice-president of the ruling party, Paulina Gamus, was roughed up by the crowd, and she broke away in tears.

Police dispersed the crowd with tear-gas.

Mr. Lepage, 69, who was elected president of Congress in February for the second time, is a ruling party senator from his home state of Anzoategui on Venezuela's eastern Caribbean coast.

## Cambodia elections to go ahead despite violence

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian elections will go ahead Sunday despite continuing violence that killed at least four people overnight, the head of the U.N. peacekeepers said Saturday.

"We will hold elections in all provinces of Cambodia," Yasushi Akashi, the Japanese diplomat who has led the 22,000-strong U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) since it was deployed in March, 1992, told a news conference.

Two Chinese U.N. peacekeeping soldiers were killed and four wounded during an overnight battle between Khmer Rouge guerrillas and Phnom Penh government forces in southeastern Cambodia, U.N. sources said Saturday.

A U.N. military observer contacted in the town of Kompong Cham said the peacekeepers were killed at their base in Skoun, 80 kilometres north of the capital as the rival factions clashed at midnight.

Xinhua, the state news agency of China, a country which faithfully backed the Khmer Rouge for 15 years, said the men were killed by artillery shells. Several engineers were wounded, it added.

Peking condemned the artillery attack that killed the two Chinese.

"Two Chinese engineers were killed and four others were wounded," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed in a statement released by Xinhua.

"We strongly condemn this serious act of violence," the spokesman said.

"The Chinese side has asked the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to investigate the case and take effective measures to ensure the personal safety of the Chinese engineers on peacekeeping missions," the spokesman added.

"We solemnly demand that all forces concerned in Cambodia immediately stop attacking U.N. peacekeeping personnel, including the Chinese engineers."

A government policeman was shot dead late Friday night and two were injured when their post was attacked in Kratie province, northwest of Phnom Penh, UNTAC reported. It said a head-quarters of the Royalist Party was hit by a hand grenade killing one and injuring another in the same province.

Mr. Akashi admitted that UNTAC had been unable to create a neutral political environment in Cambodia for the elections, as called for in the all-faction Paris peace agreement of October, 1991, which set out the terms for the election and proposed the peacekeeping force.

"I am confident we have the minimal acceptable conditions for free and fair elections, not the maximum, far from it," he said.

Mr. Akashi said parts of each province would be participating in the elections, but people in three or four districts would be unable to vote because of violence.

People living in zones under the control of the Khmer Rouge will not be able to vote. The radical guerrilla group killed a million people through execution, starvation, disease and forced labour when it ran the country from 1975 to 1979.

Votes will be cast in about 80 per cent of Cambodian territory, Mr. Akashi said. He hoped 80 per cent of the 4.76 million registered voters would be able to cast ballots.

Mr. Akashi said the greatest obstacle faced by UNTAC was the Khmer Rouge's military threat. The group withdrew from the election calling it a tool to legitimise the rule of Premier Hun Sen's Phnom Penh government, installed by the Vietnamese after they ousted the Khmer Rouge in an invasion.

He said newly-equipped Khmer Rouge fighters were now roving the countryside in bands of between 200 and 400. A year ago such groups comprised only a dozen or so guerrillas.

But the Khmer Rouge have not presented the only problem. "Acts of political violence, intimidation and harassment have been more numerous than we would like," Mr. Akashi said. "Many of such acts have been related to SOC and CPP, but not exclusively so."

The State of Cambodia (SOC) is the formal name of the Phnom Penh government and its ruling political organisation is the Cambodia People's Party (CPP).

Meanwhile Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk returned to his country on the eve of Sunday's national elections and said he supported the polls even though he viewed them as flawed.

## Wrong number

DARMSTADT, Germany (AFP) — A 79-year-old Darmstadt pensioner used to getting just the occasional phone call from friends or relatives was astonished to be bombarded day and night by female callers inquiring about sex, police reported. His number was mistakenly printed in an advert in a sex magazine offering a hotline for lesbian lovers.

## French school hostage drama to be made into a film

PARIS (R) — A film called Human Bomb is to be made of the French school hostage drama last week in which a gunman held toddlers and their teacher captive until he was shot dead by police. French newspapers reported Script author Gilles Cahoreau told the newspaper France-Soir he wrote the scenario of Human Bomb during the 46-hour siege of the Commandant Charcot Nursery School in the Paris suburb of Neuilly. "I wanted to work on a police film when I heard about this incident. So I wrote the script as it was happening," he said.

Human Bomb is what the hooded gunman, Eric Schmitt, 42, called himself. He was armed with 21 sticks of dynamite and held his captives at gunpoint in their classroom. He initially took 21 children and their teacher hostage. He released 15 of the toddlers in exchange for money but still had six children in the classroom by police last Saturday. An announcement in the trade magazine Le Film Français said the production company Les Films En Hiver would shoot Human Bomb in August. It said Frank Landron would direct the film, starring actress Elsa Zylberstein as schoolmistress Laurence Dreyfus, widely acclaimed as a hero of the siege. Schmitt will be played by Bernard Ballez.

## Swedish party seeks sexual equality

HUDIKSVALL, Sweden (R) — Sweden's small Environmental Party, which also wants an equal distribution of power between men and women, has voted to promote sexual equality in its own leadership. But a party congress at Hudiksvall in northern Sweden turned down an attempt to make the 50-50 rule obligatory, on the grounds that there might not be enough women candidates for top party jobs. Spokeswoman Marianne Samuelsson said: "But the aim is clear. The Environmental Party is a pioneer when it comes to quotas on the basis of sex and this is a step in the right direction." The party, who fell below the four per cent threshold for seats in parliament at the last general election in 1991, is now campaigning on a platform based on environmental concern and opposition to the European Community.

## Australia plans to outlaw child sex tours

CANBERRA (AP) — The government promised Friday to outlaw Australian tourists from taking part in child sex tours in Asia but admitted there may be legal problems in trying to prosecute offenders. Justice Minister Duncan Kerr said parliament regarded the tours as "terrible."

"We (will) do all we sensibly can to try to bring this to an end," Mr. Kerr said. The government plans to ban the organising and advertising of child sex tours for Australians. It also wants to prosecute Australians who sexually abuse children in other countries. Some tour operators organise groups to travel together for the purpose of seeking sex with young prostitutes in places like Thailand and the Philippines. The Australian Federal Police are monitoring Australians on Asian sex tours, Mr. Kerr said. However, there could be problems prosecuting overseas, except for war crimes, hijacking or torture which are covered by special laws. Mr. Kerr also said the government plans to assist countries where sexual exploitation of children is rife, to crack down on the child sex tourist trade. Australia's action came after a series of newspaper articles which exposed the extent and nature of child sex tours in Asia.

## Thai 'Robin Hood' surrenders

BANGKOK (R) — A Thai man who stole from the rich only to give to the poor has surrendered to police after his wife and a friend were arrested. The Nation newspaper said. The self-styled Robin Hood told the nation he had donated hundreds of dollars and tonnes of rice to rural temples and distributed money to impoverished villagers around Thailand. He had been planning to steal an additional \$3,000 to open a snooker club when his wife and friend were



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# Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1993

## Rockets, Supersonics battle in deciding semifinal

SEATTLE (AP) — It's a tale of two cities.

When the Seattle Supersonics and the Houston Rockets finally settle their Western Conference semifinal series, the deciding factor may be the homecourt advantage. Neither team has been able to win on the road.

The Rockets sent the series back to the Seattle Coliseum for the winner-take-all game with a 103-90 victory Thursday night.

"I'll tell you, it's going to be different," Seattle's Shawn Kemp promised. "Much different."

"It's a crazy series," said Oris Thorpe of Houston.

The Rockets captured games 3, 4 and 6 in Houston by 18, 11 and 13 points. Seattle won games 1, 2 and 5 at home by 9, 11 and 25 points.

Except for geography, there isn't much separating the clubs, each of whom won 55 regular-season games. The Sonics earned the homecourt advantage by beating Houston three out of four times during the regular season.

In this series, the Sonics are averaging 98.5 points and 41 rebounds to Houston's 98.0 points and 40.5 rebounds.

Houston, with a short-blocking wizard Hakeem Olajuwon of Nigeria at centre, is averaging 6.5 blocks to the Sonics' 4.1, but the Sonics are turning the ball over less than the Rockets — 13.8 to 18.5.

In game 6, Houston's Kenny Smith scored 30 points on 13-of-16 shooting, and he missed his first two shots. But until then, Smith hadn't been a major factor in the series, averaging 14.5 points.

"This series has taken on a pattern," Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "We have to change it."

Riley avoids firing verbal volleys at Bulls: Pat Riley knows that Michael Jordan called the New York Knicks a flawed team that is



Bulls' Horace Grant sinks in a slam dunk

Ewing and John Starks are contained.

"Michael has a right to say that," Riley said. "He's the man on the throne. He's pre-eminent right now in the NBA. He's right that we have some weakness. We also have some strengths."

Recent history has shown that championship teams have needed a few years of failure in the conference finals before going on to win titles. Detroit's nemesis was Boston before the Pistons won twice, and Chicago had to break through against Detroit before the Bulls were successful the last two years.

"Sometimes you do have to pay your dues in this league. But we hope to get past that," Riley said. "It's a state of mind. Starting last year we thought we had the talent to win. We have the opportunity to do it now."

Point guard Doc Rivers said Jordan's comments weren't offensive to the Knicks.

"Every team is flawed," Rivers said. "If there was a team that wasn't flawed, it would go 82-0 and win the championship every year. The secret to winning is finding the other team's flaws and exploit them."

Rivers, a 10-year veteran who has never before been to a conference final, said he saw the series, which starts Sunday at Madison Square Garden, as "an awesome opportunity. I didn't think I'd ever be in this situation."

Meanwhile, Grant, who injured his right ankle in the Bulls' first game against Cleveland, practiced for the first time since the injury, although he has not missed a playoff game.

"Horace will play," Bulls coach Phil Jackson said. "He worked gingerly, but we'll work him more Saturday."

Cartwright and Paxson both are recovering from knee problems that hampered them throughout the regular season.

### SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Wright faces X-rays ahead of World Cup qualifiers

LONDON (R) — Arsenal striker Ian Wright faces X-rays on his damaged ankle this weekend ahead of England's important World Cup matches against Poland and Norway. Wright was injured after a challenge by Sheffield Wednesday's Paul Warhurst during Arsenal's dramatic 2-1 F.A. Cup final replay Thursday. Wright, who missed the last two England qualifiers against San Marino and the Netherlands because of injury, finished the league season playing with a broken toe. Meanwhile, both he and Sheffield Wednesday striker Mark Bright could face a Football Association probe into their behaviour during Thursday's replay. The F.A. received complaints from members of the public angry at seeing Bright elbow Arsenal's match winner Andy Linighan in the face and Wright mouth obscenities at a linesman.

#### Roma rescued from bankruptcy threat

ROME (R) — The threat of bankruptcy was lifted from Italian Cup finalists AS Roma Friday when two businessmen agreed to take over the debt-ridden club. The first division club said in a statement that industrialists Pietro Mezzaroma and Franco Sensi, both associated with Roma in the past, had signed a preliminary agreement to assume the majority shareholding from the Italfin 80 company. Italfin 80 is the flagship of outgoing president Giuseppe Ciarrapico, currently in prison in Milan after his arrest on corruption charges last week. No figures were released for the transaction. Roma are reported to have total debts of around \$45 million.

#### Record number in golf competition

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Pakistani Ambassador Tariq Afridi Friday hosted an annual golf competition for members of the Bisharat Golf Club. The event, which attracted a record number of players, was keenly contested and the overall handicap winner was Mr. M.S. Park of Korea, with Mr. Adnan Tabaqchali close behind and Mr. Dick Lockyer third. The best gross score of the day was achieved by the club captain, Mr. Hanafi Abu Al Hawa. Several international players based in Jordan took part in the competition.

#### Russia to go for broke against Greece

MOSCOW (R) — Russia will play an all-out attacking game against Greece in their World Cup qualifier Sunday, knowing victory would practically guarantee them a trip to the finals in the United States next year. Lev Zakharovich, international secretary of the Russian Soccer Federation, said the team should be unchanged from the one which swept aside Hungary 3-0 last month. Russia have a maximum eight points from four games in group five, just one behind the Greeks who have played one match more. Third-placed Hungary have just three points.

#### Tyson wants someone to care for his birds

KINGSTON (AP) — Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson wants someone to care for his beloved pigeons while he serves a 6-year sentence in Indiana for rape. Tyson first became interested in the birds as a youngster in Brooklyn. His fascination continued when he moved in with the late trainer Cus D'Amato at his Catskill Mountain home. Tyson still keeps 150 homing pigeons in Catskill, and that's becoming a problem, according to Tyson's friend Jay Bright. Bright said he is searching for someone who will mind cleaning the two-story coop and feeding and watering the pigeons. Bright said Tyson needs someone who will care for the birds, and continue their training. The job pays \$200 a month, and about 25 people have already applied.

#### Flying filly Nicer wins Irish 1,000 Guineas

DUBLIN (R) — The flying British filly Nicer, trained by Barry Hills and ridden by his son Michael, ran out a decisive winner of the Irish 1,000 Guineas Saturday.

## Prost on pole for Monaco Grand Prix

MONTE CARLO (R) — Alain Prost claimed his sixth successive pole position this season and the 26th of his career Saturday when he set the pace in final qualifying for Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix. Prost, who leads the World Drivers' Championship by two points from great rival Ayrton Senna, dominated the session in his Williams.

He was out on the circuit early in the hour-long period and quickly worked his way down to a fastest time of one minute 20.557 seconds at an average speed of 148.725 kph.

This remained unchanged, his nearest rival being German Michael Schumacher in a Benetton.

He claimed a share of the front row with the second best time of 1:21.190 in his Ford-powered B193B, using traction control for the first time this weekend.

Senna, who had a minor accident at the chicane, was third-fastest in his McLaren and will share the second row with Briton Damon Hill in the second Williams.

Senna touched the barriers at the entry to the chicane and locked up under braking as he half-spun to a halt in an escape lane. Senna was left to sit out the rest of the session on a nearby park bench.

Hill, who had provisional pole from Thursday's wet opening session, was never able to mount a serious threat to Prost or Senna despite making a big effort in the second half of the session.

## World Cup qualifying matches

# Yemen score late equaliser to hold Jordan to 1-1 draw

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

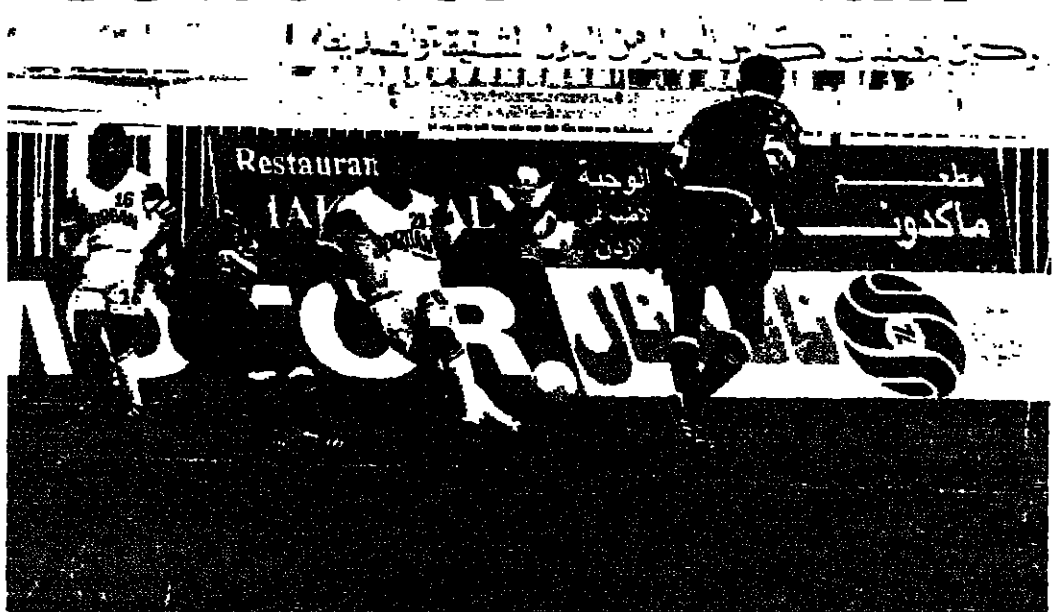
JORDAN SATURDAY drew 1-1 with Yemen in the opening match of the Asian group A World Cup qualifying matches held at Al Hassan Sports City Stadium in Irbid.

The match was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein, deputising for His Majesty the King. Also attending was Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Minister of Youth Saleh Irsheidat and over 12,000 fans.

Although both teams seemed tense and played a slow unimpressive game in the first half, Jordan had an upper hand throughout the match as strikers Jiryes Tadros and Aref Hussein mounted repeated attacks hoping to score an early goal. However, Yemeni goalkeeper Ameen Sunaini successfully aborted all such attempts as the first half ended scoreless.

Jordan's captain Jamal Abu Abed had two definite scoring chances, as he got a pass just inside the penalty box, and later again failed to score from a corner kick that the Yemeni team's star Sunaini totally controlled.

Yemen accelerated their pace in the second half but were stunned by a spectacular 65th minute goal when Jordan's Subhi Suleiman faked a pass and blasted a powerful



Jiryes Tadros attempts to break Yemeni defense in Saturday's match between Jordanian and Yemeni national teams

Shot from well outside the penalty box.

Both teams lost the efforts of a player each, as Yemen's Sharaf Mabfouz and Jordan's Mohammad Al Khaz'ali got red-card bookings.

The Jordanian team continued to dominate but lost the opportunity to capitalise on two chances by Hisham Abdul Mun'em, one from a 30 metre distance in the 77th minute and the other four minutes later that hit the post.

With 2 minutes remaining in

the game and just as Jordan's players thought they had sealed a victory, Yemen got a corner kick which Wijdan Shazli converted to an equalising goal by a header in the 89th minute.

#### Teams:

Jordan: Ahmad Abu Nasouh, Youssef Al Amouri, Hisham Abdul Mun'em, Mohannad Mahadin, Jamal Abu Abed, Jiryes Tadros, Firas Khalallah, Subhi Suleiman (Mousa

Awad), Murad Al Horani, Aref Hussein, Mohammad Al Khaz'ali.

Yemen: Ameen Sunaini, Khaled Afarah, Saleh Ben Rab'la, Abu Ali Ghaleb, Abdul Rahman Sa'eed, Jamal Nadeem, Abdullah Khorbi (Ibrahim Sbahi), Isam Dreiban, Sharaf Mabfouz, Wijdan Shazli, Abdallah Sana'ani (Ahmad Albreed).

Referee: Abdul Aziz Al Mulla (United Arab Emirates)

## Marseille to face match-fixing inquiry

PARIS (R) — The French Soccer League said Saturday an inquiry would be held into an allegation that champions Marseille attempted to fix Thursday's match with Valenciennes.

A league spokesman said an investigation would start when he had received details of an official protest by Valenciennes.

The allegation, strongly denied by European Cup finalists Marseille, came from Valencien-

nes defender Jacques Glassmann who said he had a phone conversation Wednesday with a Marseille official who offered him a bribe to take it easy in the match the following day.

League President Noel Le Graet told the sports daily L'E-quipe he would take personal charge of the inquiry but said it would not open until after Wednesday's European Cup final

to avoid harming Marseille's preparations for the Munich match with AC Milan.

Marseille won the match 1-0, virtually sealing the title, while the defeat left Valenciennes in serious relegation trouble. Valenciennes lodged a protest with the match referee.

The French League leaders said the move was an attempt to destabilise them before the Euro-

pean Cup final.

Le Graet said it would be wise not to draw hasty conclusions and that he found it strange that such allegations should emerge just before a European Cup final.

"All this is nothing but a tissue of inventions," Marseille Vice-President Jean-Louis Leveau said Friday. "It's an attempt to unsettle Marseille at an important moment in their history."

## Mansell says he lost \$20 million by leaving F-1

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — World driving champion Nigel Mansell Friday estimated "conservatively" that he had lost \$20 million by coming to the United States to race.

"There are more things in life than money," said Mansell, who will compete in his first Indianapolis 500-mile race May 30. "If you're not honourable to yourself, you can't live with yourself."

Mansell won nine races and the title in 1992 in a Williams F-1 car powered by a French-built Renault engine. Mansell said it was on record that for 15 years it has been the French desire to win the World Championship with a French driver.

So, Alain Prost, who sat out last season, was the driver the team wanted as number one. "Prost was controlling it," Mansell explained. "I don't want to work for anybody who wants to control you."

"Ayrton (Senna), Prost, (Nelson) Piquet, (Niki) Lauda all are great drivers on the track. It's how they operate off the track."

"I detest shenanigans. It seems most world championships can be bought. Alain was getting the best seat in Formula One after being sacked."



Britain's Nigel Mansell and his wife drive through the pit area during a practice run for the 77th Indianapolis 500 to be held May 30 (AFP photo)

Mansell said he was turned off by the F-1 politics.

"I won 14 races in two years and the world championship," he said, "and then got blown out of the water again. It was political."

The 39-year-old Englishman said he had been looking into IndyCar racing for the past 2 1/2 years after he left Ferrari in 1990.

Mansell said qualifying at Indy only days after undergoing back surgery was the toughest thing he'd ever done. On his second attempt, he earned a starting spot in the middle of the third row.

He suffered the injury when he crashed during practice for the Phoenix 200, his first attempt to race on an oval track.

"When I look back on it, I've

got to be reasonably kind to myself," he said about his qualification run. "This is (teammate) Mario Andretti's 28th Indy. If I had started and tested and tested, my back never would have made it."

After qualifying, Mansell returned to his home in Clearwater, Florida, and resumed therapy for his back. This included ice packs, hot blankets, ultrasound, massage, swimming and long walks.

"I can get in and out of the car now," he said. "I think because I'm a little older, this is the worst accident I've had."

Mansell, who drives for the Newman-Haas team, turned a lap at 224.215 mph (360.83 kph) Fri-

day in his Lola-Ford cosworth and said he isn't paying much attention to speeds of other drivers. Only eight this year have gone faster.

"You can do what the car can do," he said. "My satisfaction comes in doing the best I can do on that day."

He said he has learned that at Indy the weather can change hour by hour and another "huge change" occurs from one set of tyres to the next.

"Keeping it flat down is an exercise I haven't accomplished yet," he said about pushing on the throttle.

No other driver has claimed to have done that either this May. Mansell intends to practise at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway then return home for additional therapy. He'll be back at the track for carburetion day practice next Thursday.

"I'm not even going to focus on the race until next Thursday, Friday or Saturday," he said. "I'm astonished I'm in the (IndyCar) points lead. Not being pessimistic, but I won't be in the points lead after this race: I'm being realistic."

"Winning this one would be unbelievable."

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH  
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#### THE LAW OF TOTAL TRICKS

Neither vulnerable. South deals.  
NORTH  
♠ 7 4 2  
♥ 5  
♦ K 10 9 7  
♣ K 8 7 5 4  
WEST  
♠ J 10 5 3  
♥ A 9 8 4 2  
♦ A Q  
♣ 9 8  
EAST  
♠ 9  
♥ K Q J  
♦ 6 5 4 3 2  
♣ A Q J 6 2

SOUTH  
♠ A K Q 8 6  
♥ 10 7 6 3  
♦ J 8  
♣ A 10

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 2 ♣ 4 ♣  
4 ♠ Dbt Pass Pass  
Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♣.  
About 25 years ago Jean Rene Vernes wrote an article called "The Law of Total Tricks." It attracted little attention then and, despite overwhelming proof of its accuracy, there are still many doubters. However, an excellent book on the subject is now on the market: *The Law of Total Tricks* by Larry Cohen (Platinum Press, 272 pp., paperback). Available from the author, 181 Loughlin Rd., Bldg. 1-6, Little Falls, N.J. 07424. \$11.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

The LAW of Total Tricks states

simply: "The total number of tricks available on any deal is equal to the total number of trumps (of each side's best combined fit)." This book is not for the casual player. However, it is guaranteed to sharpen the competitive bidding of anyone who takes the trouble to read and digest the contents.

Cohen cites hundreds of hands from all levels of play to support the accuracy of the LAW (author's capital). For example, consider this hand from the 1978 World Fairs. The eventual winners, Marcelo Branco and Gabino Cintra of Brazil, bid to four spades and, after the lead of the ace of hearts, should have been defeated one trick. They weren't, but that's immaterial.

Should South have gone on to four spades? The LAW says no—he should have doubled four hearts instead! North was likely to hold three spades and one heart; thus each side had eight trumps in their combined holding, making a combined total of 16 trumps. If only 16 tricks were available, and if North-South were destined to take 10 in spades, four hearts was going down four tricks! A double would have paid off without the risk of trying for game. As the cards lie, North-South can be held to nine tricks and East-West to seven, and with a total of 16 tricks available on the deal, can anyone really question the validity of the LAW?

## TODAY

Cinema Tel.: 677420  
**CONCORD**  
**DOC HOLLYWOOD**  
Shows: 3:15; 6:00; 8:15; 10:30

Cinema Tel.: 699238  
**PLAZA**  
**SUMMER SCHOOL**  
Shows: 12:30; 3:15; 4:45; 6:30; 8:30; 10:30

Cinema Tel.: 634144  
**PHILADELPHIA**  
**Desperately Seeking Suzan**  
Shows: 12:30; 3:30; 6:15; 8:30; 10:30

Tel.: 675571  
**Nabil Al Mashini Theatre**  
Today the Nabil Mashini Theatre hosts  
**Al Fawaris Troupe acting**  
in a play entitled:  
**Death of Taybeh**  
By: Suheir Fahd, Mohammad Al Qabbani, Amer Al Khafash

Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625153  
**AHLAN THEATRE**  
presents  
Welcome Parliament and Budget  
On Mondays, Tuesdays and  
Wednesdays At 9:00 p.m.  
**Welcome New World Order**  
On Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays  
at 9:00 p.m.  
Please make advance reservation



## ICRC assails U.N. over Afghan conflict

GENEVA (AP) — A senior Red Cross official has criticised the United Nations for doing too little to stop the carnage in Afghanistan and predicted that a new ceasefire agreement would have little impact.

Jean-Michel Monod, head of Asian operations at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said the level of misery in the capital Kabul was "intolerable."

He said more than 4,500 civilians had been injured and an estimated 1,000 people killed in Kabul over the past 10 days.

"This indiscriminate shelling is hitting everywhere in the city," he told a news conference. "All areas have been hit. All hospitals have been hit. Everybody is shooting at everybody else, with devastating results."

Mr. Monod said the fighting — the worst since the ouster of President Najibullah in April 1992 — was meant to strengthen bargaining positions at peace talks among the rebel factions.

The talks in the eastern city of Jalalabad ended Thursday with agreement on a ceasefire and a new cabinet. Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud — the rival of Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar — agreed to stand down. The fighting in Kabul has pitted Mr. Masoud's forces against those loyal to Mr.

Hekmatyar.

The warring factions continued to shell Kabul even after announcing the ceasefire.

Mr. Monod said the Jalalabad agreement was likely to have the same effect as previous accords negotiated in neighbouring Pakistan.

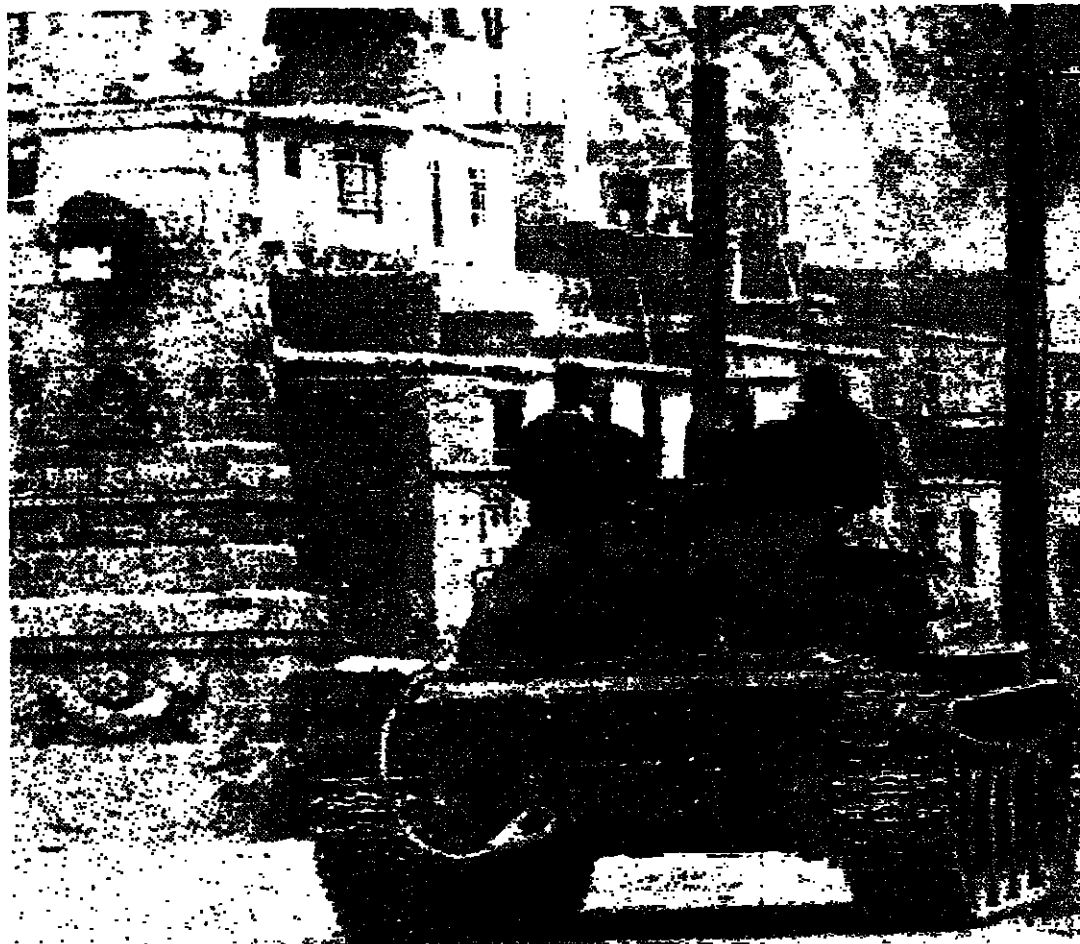
"It will temporarily bring some quiet to Kabul, but it certainly won't have a long-lasting effect," he said.

He said the United Nations had done too little to support regional peace initiatives to stop the factional fighting since the end of communist rule.

"It's good the regional powers — Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia — are trying to push the protagonists in the direction of a lasting ceasefire but they need help," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has proposed that the President of the United States and Russia should join in a grouping called "Friends of Afghanistan" to try to end the fighting. However, Mr. Monod said no action had so far been taken.

Security concerns prompted the United Nations to withdraw its expatriate staff from Kabul last August. Most foreign embassies are closed and virtually all aid agencies have pulled out. International appeals for funds to help victims of the civil war have



Soldiers manning a Defence Ministry tank look on as a rocket Saturday hits a residential area in Kabul

received practically no response.

The ICRC, which traditionally operates in areas of armed conflict, is now responsible for nearly all the relief efforts in Kabul. It has 15 Swiss staff there and runs

two of the capital's five remaining hospitals. It sends in 30 tonnes of food every week by road from Pakistan.

Mr. Monod said there was no power or water and little food,

but no signs yet of starvation.

"The ICRC is roughly the last organisation present," Mr. Monod said. "We feel a little bit lonesome in Kabul these days."

## Regime's jet bombs Kabul 'by mistake'

KABUL (Agencies) — A government plane bombed a residential neighbourhood by mistake Saturday, killing a 14-year-old girl and injuring eight other people, officials and residents said.

The aircraft dropped four bombs on the poor neighbourhood of Formulia in south central Kabul, destroying a clay brick house. Three more bombs were dropped on a nearby vacant lot.

"I was so afraid. It was such a loud explosion," said Abdul Aziz, a butcher whose house next door was damaged.

His neighbour's 14-year-old daughter was killed and a 10-year-old son's arm was ripped off by shrapnel, Mr. Aziz said.

The Defence Ministry said the bombing was a mistake and the pilot was under investigation.

The plane's target was apparently positions on the other side of the mountain on which Formulia is located. Often the planes, flying very high to elude anti-aircraft guns, miss their targets.

At least 500 people have been killed and more than 5,000 injured in Kabul during the last two weeks in a fratricidal war for control of the Defence Ministry. Almost all the civilian victims have been killed by rockets fired by militias in the southern suburbs of Kabul or in the overlooking mountains.

The government halted air strikes on positions of the radical Hezb-e-Islami party after Saturday's bombing, but rocket and artillery fire continued to pound the city.

Weeping women tore their hair while men dug through rubble in the old city to find people who might be still buried.

One man returned from hospital with his year-old son, the baby's head bandaged after he was hurt when his home collapsed.

Government jets have made dozens of raids against Hezb-e-Islami and its Shi'ite Hezb-e-Wahdat allies since artillery battles for control of the capital erupted 11 days ago.

"The jet was trying to hit a Hezb-e-Islami post on a nearby hill. They are shelling the city from there," Defence Ministry spokesman Yunis Qanuni said. "One bomb was mistakenly dropped on a residential area."

He said an inquiry would be held.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says the capital's hospitals have treated an average of 500 injured every day since this latest round of fighting began.

Between 80 and 100 rockets have rained on the capital daily in the last seven days, destroying houses in most parts of the city.

## COLUMN I

### Britain's Queen Mother spends 2nd night in hospital

ABERDEEN, Scotland (AP) — The Queen Mother spent a second night in the hospital Friday following surgery to remove a piece of food which stuck in her throat. "She is still listed as comfortable and is resting, and she will be staying one more night in hospital, and her condition will be assessed in the morning by her doctors," said Alan Reid, spokesman at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. The hospital was flooded with telephone calls and flowers from Britons concerned about the 92-year-old widow of King George VI and mother of Queen Elizabeth II. None of the royal family came to the hospital Friday. Prince Charles told reporters in London that his grandmother "is better, thank goodness."

### Rare print of U.S. Declaration of Independence sold

NEW YORK (R) — A rare original print of the declaration of independence was sold privately Friday for an undisclosed price after failing to meet its minimum reserve price at an auction earlier in the day. The broadsheet, only one of two still in private hands, was purchased by a rare documents dealer in New Jersey. A spokeswoman said the purchase was made on behalf of an undisclosed client and she would not give the purchase price. The document was one of those printed by John Dunlap on the evening of July 4, 1776, to spread the word of Congress's action. The private transaction was done shortly after bidding at a Sotheby's auction stopped at \$1.75 million, somewhere below the reserve price. Sotheby's had estimated the document would sell for between \$2 million to \$3 million. A manuscript with some of Abraham Lincoln's strongest indictments of slavery was more successful, selling at the same auction for \$992,500. The one-page manuscript in Lincoln's hand is part of a speech that has been lost. Written around 1858, it says in part that "although volume upon volume is written to prove slavery a very good thing, we never hear of the man who wishes to take the good of it, by being a slave himself."

### Moon's shadow races over earth in partial eclipse

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sky-watchers from California and Alaska to Finland saw a partial eclipse of the sun Friday as the moon's shadow passed over North America, the Arctic and northernmost Europe. "The weather was perfect and we could see it really well," said astronomer Juhani Harjunharja, who watched the moon obscure 39 per cent of the sun from Utsjok Observatory in northern Finland's Lapland. "It felt like the warm sunshine suddenly grew colder." The first solar eclipse visible from North America since Jan. 4, 1992, took place at sunrise along the west coast and later in the morning over more than half the continent. The moon's shadow then moved over the North Pole and into Norway, Sweden, Scotland, Finland and Russia. North America's best views were in Alaska, where up to two-thirds of the sun was blocked. "Oh, you've got to get a view through the scope — it's great," said Richard Pellessier, who watched from Earthquake Park in Anchorage as the eclipsed sun emerged from clouds. Bernadette Soter, 44, one of about two dozen people who watched the eclipse from the roof of Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, said: "It makes me feel what my place is in the universe."

### Ukrainian computer game simulates war with Russia

KIEV (R) — War has finally broken out between Russia and Ukraine over the disputed Black Sea Fleet — on a computer game used in bars in central Ukraine. The Kiev daily Nezavisimost reported Friday that the game, known as "Battle For the Black Sea", allows players to pit ships of the Russian Navy against a computer with the Ukrainian Navy at its disposal. "There are state flags, shooting and everything else you would get in a real war," the daily said of the game in the city of Kremenchuk. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia and Ukraine have been at odds over the 380-ship Black Sea Fleet. Both sides have agreed to joint command of the fleet pending division of the equipment in 1995.

## Sudan warns against any bid to intervene in South

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist government would send human waves against the guns of any army that tried to stop violence or provide safe areas in southern Sudan so that starving people can be fed, the foreign minister said.

Intervention has been broached as a way of saving up to a million southern Sudanese facing possible death with international relief impeded by civil war and factional fighting among rebels.

Some have suggested a combination of two successful emergency relief operations of recent years.

One was the "safe haven" concept, which protected Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq from that country's army in 1991-92. Eljah

Malok, an official with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), suggested at a news conference in the Kenyan capital Nairobi Thursday that a similar zone should be created in southern Sudan.

The other is Operation Restore Hope, in which U.S.-led forces invaded Somalia last December and kept violence at bay long enough to save hundreds of thousands of starving Somalis.

Donald Peterson, U.S. ambassador to Sudan, last month told reporters in Nairobi that the international community would have to act if peace talks between the government and rebels failed.

"If there is no progress toward a negotiated settlement, the international community will have to consider what should be done to

the awful suffering," he said. Foreign Minister Hussein Suli-man Abu Salih alleged that the West, through its press and politicians, is waging a "stupid" campaign "to polarise world public opinion against Sudan for intervention" on humanitarian grounds.

But he said those who talk about intervening in Sudan are dreaming.

"They are misinformed on the Sudanese character and the nature of Islam in such matters," Mr. Abu Salih said in a television interview Friday night.

"There will be real jihad. There will be wave after wave of people fighting, not only a handful of soldiers or popular defence forces."

The junta, which took power in a 1989 coup, already has had

Muslim clerics declare the 10-year-old southern rebellion a holy war.

Mr. Abu Salih said Sudan never gives in to pressure and cited its current argument with Egypt over Halaib, an enclave in Egypt's extreme southeastern corner north of the international frontier.

He said Khartoum would be willing to cede rights to the disputed territory but accused Cairo of trying to bully its weaker southern neighbour with threats and troop movements.

With a more genteel approach, "we in the Sudan can give away this land, or even more," Mr. Abu Salih said. "But Sudan, its people and government, cannot relinquish an inch of land taken through force or twisting of the arm."

## Russian hardliners campaign for constitution referendum

MOSCOW (R) — Hardline conservatives say they have gathered enough signatures to force a nationwide referendum on bringing back a "Soviet socialist constitution," the conservative daily Pravda reported Saturday.

Reformist President Boris Yeltsin is planning a new constitution which would distance Russia from its Soviet past.

But Pravda said the pro-Soviet organisation Workers' Russia had by May 16 gathered signatures from 1,090,000 opponents of Mr. Yeltsin's plans. Russian law allows a referendum to be called if one million people sign a petition asking for it.

"Parliamentary deputies are now bound to decide to hold nationwide discussions of a draft Soviet socialist constitution which guarantees a life fit for a human being to the working man," Pravda said.

"Yeltsin wants to end months of political stalemate over post-Soviet Russia's news draft constitution, blocked by a conservative parliament hostile to his radical economic reforms."

Buoyed by a popular endorsement of his presidency and reforms in an April referendum, Mr. Yeltsin has bypassed parliament and invited representatives from Russia's 88 regions to meet in Moscow on June 5 to discuss and perhaps pass a new constitution.

Hardline groups on the fringes of Russian politics said Friday they would hold their own rival constitutional conference at the same time. They would also invite regional representatives to Moscow to draw up a separate draft constitution.

Gennady Sayenko, a leading member of the conservative Russian Unity movement, told a news conference organisers of the hardliners' constitutional talks included his group, the National Salvation Front, and the officers' union.

Interfax news agency reported the National Salvation Front had said it would pick the city centre and state buildings on 5-12 June to protect the existing constitution, a much-amended version of the former Soviet Union basic law of 1971.

The hardline groups have kept a low profile since the Russian workers' holiday on May 1, when their supporters clashed with police in Moscow.

## King warns against 'enemies of democracy'

(Continued from page 1)

"Those whom I used to meet earlier remember how many times I have urged to rise above the level of insults and offence and to adopt a wise approach to defend what is right and to offer ideas and not to fall into the abyss....

"In our dealing with one another we have to form what can be described as honesty and what can contribute to enhancing ties among the members of one family regardless of their origins."

"We have to create an approach reflecting the spirit of responsibility and we have to check whatever we publish and to

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Italy's scandal probe likely to last until 1995

ROME (R) — Investigations into the political bribery scandal which has shaken Italy over the last 15 months are likely to go on until 1995, Milan chief prosecutor Francesco Borrelli has said. More help was needed to cope with a heavy and growing workload on the city's investigating magistrates, he told RAI state television Friday night. As he spoke, two former ministers were being officially notified of suspected involvement in corruption, judicial sources said. Both Oscar Mammì, a Republican ex-minister of posts and telecommunications, and Vincenzo Bono Parrino, a Social Democratic former cultural heritage minister, are suspected of having accepted bribes from government suppliers. Mr. Mammì immediately resigned from the Chamber of Deputies. Over 2,500 people, including more than 100 members of parliament, are under investigation in the scandal, which has provoked widespread public disgust and contributed to the runaway success of an electoral reform referendum last month. "The old reluctance of the public to come forward has vanished," said Mr. Borrelli. "We have lots of work in front of us just to complete investigations and then the trials and legal consequences will take several years more."

### Indian army said equipped with new missile

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian army has been equipped with a locally-built surface-to-surface missile after more than five years of tests, the Hindustan Times newspaper reported Saturday. The Prithvi missile, which has a range of 250 kilometres and can carry a payload of up to one tonne, has been deployed in Punjab state on the border with Pakistan, with which India has fought three wars, the newspaper said. Many of Pakistan's major cities and military installations would fall within the range of the missile, the Hindustan Times said. Military officials refused to comment on the report, but the Defence Ministry said in March that the weapon system would be deployed in the army by the end of the year. Prithvi, which means "Earth" in the Hindi language, was first developed in 1988 and has been flight-tested at least nine times. India has successfully tested an intermediate-range missile with a range of 2,400 kilometres, but says the system is for sending payloads into space and will not be used by the armed forces.

### Canadian energy minister confers with Nazer

RIYADH (AP) — Oil Minister Hisham Nazer conferred Saturday with Canada's minister of energy, mines and resources, who is in Saudi Arabia to promote business for Canadian companies in the oil-rich region. The official Saudi Press Agency said the two ministers discussed bilateral ties, especially with relation to oil affairs, but gave no details. The Canadian, Bill McKnight, is accompanied by a delegation of Canadian business representatives and will also be briefly visiting Kuwait and Yemen before returning to Ottawa. "The businesses which are travelling with me... are all high-tech companies which have been developing trade contacts in this region," Mr. McKnight was quoted as saying by the Canadian embassy. The Canadian companies include members of the petroleum processing and engineering, and mineral sectors, including Delta Catalytic, MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates, Monenco Agra, SNC-Lavalin Inc. and Zetco Inc. While in Saudi Arabia, Mr. McKnight will open a research and process simulation plant constructed by Zetco Inc. of Burlington, at the King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology.

### Indian foreign affairs official in Oman

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — India's minister of state for foreign affairs arrived Saturday on a visit to promote political and economic relations and pave the way for a trip by Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao later this year. The minister, R.L. Bhatia, was met on arrival by Haitham Ben Tareq Al Saeed, political affairs undersecretary at the Omani Foreign Ministry. He later met with Sultan Qaboos. According to Asian diplomats, Mr. Rao planned to visit Oman, but the date of the trip has not been fixed. Mr. Bhatia also will visit the United Arab Emirates, but it was not clear if Mr. Rao also planned to go there. Omani-Indian cooperation in petrochemical and gas projects was high on Mr. Bhatia's agenda, said the diplomats. In March this year, Oman signed a memorandum of understanding for setting up two oil refineries in India.

## FBI says blast suspects' prints found on seized bomb elements

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) lab reports revealed Friday that fingerprints of two key suspects in the World Trade Centre bombing were found on bomb-making materials seized at a Jersey City storage locker several days after the blast.

The reports said the fingerprints of Mohammad Salameh were found on a bottle of shotgun powder, a bag of the chemical, ammonium nitrate, and on a brown bottle of a chemical known as aniline reagent.

A copy of the report was made available to Reuters by a source close to the case.

Mr. Salameh's fingerprints were also discovered on duct tape, a glass beaker, a clear plastic bottle and other items in the shed, according to the April 15 lab report.

The FBI investigation of the Feb. 26 explosion, in which six people died and over 1,000 were injured, was codenamed "Tradebom" in the confidential reports.

Two fingerprints of a missing suspect, Ramzi Yousef, were also found on a brown bottle of sodium azide.

Robert Precht, the lawyer for Mr. Salameh, has said that his client rented the storage locker but that it was being used to store personal items.

"He has never denied being present in the storage facility and has always said he was there in connection with an activity he believed to be completely innocent," said Mr. Precht.

The lawyer said that the activity will be revealed at Mr. Salameh's trial.

On Tuesday, Reuters learned that the FBI had a list of 18 individuals whose fingerprints they were trying to match up with evidence obtained in the bombing.

Six suspects, including Mr. Salameh and Mr. Yousef, are on that list.

In another report, the FBI disclosed that investigators found \$2,615 in U.S. currency and a small amount of Jordanian and Iraqi currency during their searches.



Egyptian police experts examine the Cairo site where a car bomb exploded Friday (AFP photo)

## Cairo blast death toll rises to 7

CAIRO (Agencies) — The death toll from Egypt's bloodiest bombing in more than a year of political violence rose to seven Saturday when three critically-injured men died.

The government accused Muslim militants of planting the bomb, which exploded either under or inside a car parked outside a police station in central Cairo Friday.

But a known supporter of the main militant group, Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group), denied it had been involved and said it would not risk the lives of ordinary Egyptians.

Security sources said one of the three men who died Saturday was the brother of a girl who was killed instantly when the bomb blew up. They said 20 people were now known to have been injured and several were in critical condition.

The sources said investigators had found the detonator of the bomb and a timer. They estimated the bomb had contained 1.5 to two kilograms of explosives.

"This is a clear criminal work carried out by the terrorist groups, which have no religious aims whatsoever," the head of the state information service, Mamdouh Beltagi, told Reuters. Asked whether Muslim militants had been responsible, Major-General Fouad Hussain, Cairo's assistant police chief, told

Reuters: "There is no other possibility."

But a known supporter of the Gama'a contacted by Reuters said the group had nothing to do with the blast.

"We are not responsible for this incident," he said. "We cannot hurt ordinary Egyptians." The man asked not to be identified.

The explosion was the fifth extremist attack since December in the heart of the Egyptian capital and the bloodiest. It is the first time a car bomb has been used in more than a year of violence between Muslim extremists and security forces.

Security and hospitals officials said the number of wounded rose to 20.

A spokesman at Kasr Al Aini hospital said Abdallah Rashad, 5, died from a brain injury. His brother Sayyed, 20, from internal hemorrhage in the chest, and Hani Fadel, 20, also from a head wound.

The official said a 15-year-old girl who died Friday was the Rashads' sister. Three others died the same day.

Doctors said at least five other victims were in critical condition. Police detained the owner of the car and another man arrested at the scene to question them about possible links with extremists.

The government-owned Al

Gomhuria newspaper quoted security officials as saying the owner of the vehicle is a professor at Al Azhar, Islam's highest learning institution. He told police he had parked the car behind the police station two days before the explosion and left for his town in the Nile Delta.

Police said the bomb was packed with nails and doctors said they extracted some from victims' bodies.

On Feb. 26, hours after the World Trade Centre bombing killed six people and wounded more than 1,000 in New York, a similar device exploded in a downtown Cairo cafe, killing three people and wounding more than a dozen. Two of the dead were foreign tourists.

Also Friday, an employee at Cairo airport found a rifle wrapped in cloth hidden in a communications room on the runway. Police are investigating.

In the town of Damietta on the Mediterranean, a boy found a box filled with gunpowder and ammunition in front of a school.

Al Gama'a Al Islamiya has intensified its violence campaign against Egypt's secular government since January 1992. It has attacked police, Christians and a year ago started targeting tourists. More than 150 people have died in the violence, most of them militants.